

# Libraries

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## The Modern World and Its Outstanding Characteristics<sup>1</sup>

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There is no break in the continuity of history.

Each generation has thot itself to be "modern." Yet there is undoubtedly a vast difference between what we all feel to be "the modern world" and the vast ages antecedent to this rapidly moving, unified world in which we find ourselves.

Let us ask—what is it to be "modern"?

Certainly we cannot claim superiority of intelligence. It is doubtful whether any man now on earth is more intelligent than were Euclid or Plato or Galileo.

Is it in superiority of great works?

Scarcely. However great our material achievements they do not, even yet, surpass such works as the great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Egypt, the City of Angkor and many other achievements of the ancient world.

Is it in superiority of culture?

There is little reason to believe that many men or women today are living lives more gracious, serene, more typical of the highest degree of culture than were lived by men and women under some of the Chinese dynasties, in the Roman Empire of Trajan or Hadrian or in the Athens of Pericles, or the Florence of Lorenzo.

Is it in superiority of art?

Certainly not! For we can scarcely claim that in the fine arts our contemporary achievements are comparable to the work of such masters of Phidias, Michel-Angelo and many others.

It is in entirely different directions that we must seek the outstanding characteristics of our modern world.

I would venture to say that one of these chief characteristics is the sense of unity. Those highly cultivated men who lived under Trajan and Hadrian, those highly cultivated men who discoursed of art and philosophy under the olive groves of Italy with Lorenzo the Magnificent, had no such consciousness of the unity of mankind as we possess. The discovery of the western hemisphere, the circumnavigation of the globe, the bringing of the whole planet within human understanding—all this profoundly affects the basis of our thots and forces us to have a different outlook from men of the past.

I would venture to say that a second primary characteristic of the modern world is the possession of what may be called "an area of relative certainty." The breaking down of the Aristotelian system by Francis Bacon's *Novum Organum* sent men directly to the investigation of phenomena. This, with the development of scientific method, gave us what the ancient world did not possess—a body

<sup>1</sup>Address before Illinois State Library association at Joliet, Illinois, October 27, 1927.

of knowledge, a system of understanding of natural laws, immune to all human differences because it consists of scientific generalizations *relatively exact, verifiable, demonstrable and communicable*—true for all men of all kinds at all times everywhere.

That motor car we hear running outside will run for any human being who understands it. It will run for the Pope at Rome or the Grand Lama at Lhasa. It will run for an Eskimo or a Fiji Islander. It will run for a white man or a black man. It will run for a rich man or a poor man. It is merely the materialization of knowledge of natural laws discovered by modern scientific method. Yet it is essentially *modern* both as a product of the *modern* knowledge and as conducting to the swiftness of movement and consciousness of unity of mankind which are essentially *modern*.

A third primary characteristic of the modern world is the widened intellectual horizons made possible for us. A man of the past looked out into the sky at night and saw only "stars." But we, of today, look at those flaming bodies in the heavens and know that we are seeing objects millions, hundreds of millions of miles away from us. History for the men even of a few hundred years ago stopped with Egypt just as it concerned itself very little with the vast populations—past or present—of India and China. But, today, Ancient Egypt seems very close to us when we are enabled by the discoveries of modern science to project our imaginations hundreds of thousands, millions, tens of millions of years back into time.

To the man of a hundred years ago this desk I touch would have appeared merely "matter." To us it is a whirling chaos of electrons. We understand its nature in ways which would have seemed almost unimaginable even to our great grandfathers. In time, then, in space, and in understanding of the constitution of matter, our intellectual horizons have expanded almost incredibly. That is certainly one of the

primary characteristics of the modern world.

In understanding of ourselves and of our origin we have made vast progress. Today such a book as *Why we behave like human beings* will explain to us many characteristics of humanity never dreamed of by our forefathers. No longer do we see ourselves isolated in the universe but as the orderly, inexorable result of multitudinous natural forces working for millions of years.

Another primary aspect of the modern world, in my opinion, is the breakdown of respect for arbitrary authority whether that arbitrary authority exist in the form of ecclesiastical or political denomination.

The idea of "progress" is essentially modern. It is hard to understand that the ancient world had no such outlook. The idea of the ability of man consciously and deliberately to change and mold himself and environment by his own imagination, intelligence, will and courage—this is not only essentially modern but appears to me to be the most important of all the characteristically modern ideas.

Its tangible characteristics are almost too obvious to need discussion.

When we can step to the nearest telegraph office and send a message to Melbourne or Cape Town more easily than we could a hundred years ago have sent a message from Joliet to Chicago; when, tomorrow morning, there will be at our breakfast tables newspapers bringing us the news of the entire world with all its hundreds of millions of human beings, we need little stressing of the external ways in which we vary from the world our ancestors knew.

In Russia, even today, the great masses of the population have few possessions, few needs—simple garments, simple food and a roof overhead. These have satisfied them. Think how multitudinous are the desires of the American people, how complicated their needs, how intricate their standard of life. This elaboration of invention,

this unceasing stimulation of new needs and desires, this expansion of material culture as affecting not a ruling class but the whole population is essentially modern.

Riding around the streets of Chicago today I was impressed by the almost incredible wealth, the teeming quantity of *things* and I realized that I was to speak tonight before persons whose social function it is to spread not things but *ideas*, knowledge.

I am speaking before librarians. That is one name applied to you. I prefer to think of you as the custodians of treasure houses. For under the roofs of the buildings in which you spend your days is the accumulated knowledge of all men of all ages. It is the most precious treasure mankind possesses. Up to this time that treasure has either been monopolized by a small privileged class or the libraries containing it have been tombs where knowledge was buried as jewels might be buried.

Is it not one of the most important characteristics of the modern world that today these libraries, these treasure houses, are becoming dynamos rather than tombs; that the knowledge contained in the books possessed by them is being circulated ever more widely, reaching an ever greater portion of the population?

I stressed the fact that two of the primary characteristics of the modern world are consciousness of unity and the possession of a great body of knowledge which might be called an area of certainty in the general mystery which surrounds us.

The hope of the future lies in the more efficient diffusion of that body of knowledge thruout ever increasing portions of the general population; lies in bringing all men of all races to recognize their basic homogeneity. Such an activity, such a desire was impossible in the ancient world. Yet the affections and admiration of men down all the centuries have gone out to those who, like Plato or Francis Bacon or Diderot, carried on that great human aspiration—the widespread diffu-

sion of knowledge, so that all men might emerge from ignorance and fear and throw back their heads, their eyes flashing in the sunlight of understanding.

Rapidity of movement, the perfecting of devices like the printing press, the telegraph, radio, motion picture, newspaper; the breakdown of centralized ecclesiastical and political authority, the development of democracy, the perfecting of material culture and the raising of the general standard of life—all these were necessary before the library could hope to come into its own, could hope to become a rival of the schools and colleges, could hope to become what I believe it to be—one of the most vitally strategic forces in contemporary civilization.

That its progress has been tremendous is evidenced by the mere fact that you are gathered here tonight—a conference of the librarians of a whole state, one of the 48 states. Here, where but a few hundred years ago was wilderness, is now a vast imperial city, an incredibly wealthy state. And here are meeting the custodians of endless libraries potentially capable of giving to the people of Illinois such inspiration as, in the ancient world, could have been hoped for only by the members of a small ruling class.

Consider the implications of this fact. Is it not clear that the increase of knowledge and the perfecting of devices for communicating knowledge, in conjunction with the understanding of the basic unity and homogeneity of mankind and in conjunction with the overthrow of such arbitrary authority as was associated with the "divine right of kings," have resulted in what may be called the social organism of humanity?

Are we not, each of us, but individual intelligent mobile cells in the organism of mankind? Are not all our devices of intercommunication comparable to the blood stream flowing thru the body of a man? Does not increased and enduring human well-being depend upon the ever more free and rapid flow of *thot* and knowledge?

In any case, I find it enormously gratifying to think of humanity in such terms. I think of the flow of knowledge as the thot stream of society. Today the control of many of the forces constituting that thot stream is in undesirable hands. If you doubt that statement you have but to study some of our current tabloid papers, our magazines, our motion pictures. But the schools, the libraries—growing ever closer together but not yet close enough—are also parts of the mechanism of that thot stream. More and more it seems to me that the true function of the school is to give broad perspective on knowledge as a whole, to help each individual student to orient himself or herself in the great world of knowledge we possess, while the function of the library is to continue the education of each individual after school life is over.

It is only by the more articulate and deliberate efforts of such strategically placed persons as teachers and librarians that the progressive degeneration of the common mind by propaganda, hysteria and sensation can be combated and the chief admirable and desirable characteristics of the modern world be brought to maximum value and effectiveness by deliberate promulgation of understanding of them to the greatest number of persons.

The era of specialization has resulted in many hundreds of thousands of Americans believing knowledge to be chaotic. There is obvious everywhere an avid hunger for knowledge. But such confusion and waste result from the failure of the educational system, as a whole, to have adapted itself more readily to new conditions and new requirements that many men and women grow discouraged in their search.

The acquisition of knowledge has been made to appear painful and difficult to them. Yet every one of them has some maximum point of interest which, if properly ascertained and developed, can cause the acquisition of knowledge to be made a zestful and pleasurable undertaking as the growth

of a flower or a lamb must be pleasurable to the flower or to the lamb.

It was the deliberate intention and object of ruling and exploiting classes down the ages to prevent the widespread diffusion of knowledge. It is the inexorable condition to the success of the democratic experiment that no barriers to the most effective diffusion of knowledge be permitted to remain.

Just as there are tens of thousands of persons in the state of Illinois possessing luxuries and comforts which only kings would have had a few centuries ago, so there are hundreds of thousands of persons possessing knowledge and understanding which only priests and the ruling classes would have possessed a few centuries ago. The manufacturers and business men are always perfecting means for the more efficient distribution of more *things*. Is it not your function to perfect means for the more efficient diffusion of *facts and ideas*?

It is essential that knowledge be democratized as well as political power, material wealth and physical well-being. Democracy is even yet only an experiment. Mr Wells, in his Sorbonne lecture last spring, pointed out that it is an experiment in which vast multitudes of men and women thruout the world are beginning to lose faith. America flaunted this idea of democracy to the world. Already we begin to see a centralization of wealth and power which Jefferson and Lincoln—and men who thot like them—feared and sought to prevent. The standardization of the common mind by agencies closely allied with centralized political and financial power is one of the gravest dangers to the success of democracy in America and thruout the world. It is a new phase of the old attempt to monopolize knowledge. It must not be permitted. The forces of civilization which retard the free flow of thot are like cancerous growths. The instrumentalities which help spread thot are like our hearts which are beating, our lungs which are taking in oxygen—burning out impurities.



Each individual cell in the social organism of man must be rendered as intelligent as possible. And intelligence—in the sense I here use the word—means such understanding of self, of society, of social institutions, of the basic essentials of knowledge in general that the individual mind will be immune to fears and thus immune to selfish propaganda and to the sensationalism and hysteria associated with all selfish propaganda.

I have declared that the libraries in a democracy like America are treasure houses. I would go further and declare that librarians occupy an almost priestly function, that upon the degree to which they are far-visioned and dynamic may very greatly depend the success of the whole democratic experiment.

The flowers and the lambs grow in the actual soil of earth. The mind of man grows in the soil of knowledge—a soil which must be constantly clarified so that the developing tendrils of individual curiosity and interest may grow into the deep roots of understanding which will support the individual thru a life useful, happy and aspiring. There is no other soil in which man can grow and all repressive and exploiting institutions are dependent for their success upon rendering this soil sterile.

Millions of children are being born in America every year. Upon the understanding they will acquire largely depends the future of America, and of the world. Upon the schools and libraries of America depends the degree of effectiveness with which these millions of children will gain, retain and develop understanding.

Up to this time the average American—product of a pioneer race presented with tremendous physical difficulties—has felt books to be something distinct from and apart from "life." We here tonight know that books are "life," that only by the use of books can men and women grow to their full stature. The gulf between "books" and "life" must be bridged.

I have seen in one American city recently how an alert librarian like Joseph L. Wheeler can quickly aid in bridging this gulf, can increase the usefulness of a library prodigiously, can tie a library into the daily lives of the citizens of a great city to a degree never before attempted in that city.

One of the continuing chief characteristics of the world which was not "modern" was the monopoly of knowledge. One of the chief basic characteristics of the modern world is the possession not only of knowledge but of endless new instrumentalities for the diffusion of that knowledge to every man and woman.

It is therefore that I feel that all persons engaged in any aspect of the diffusion of knowledge whether as teachers or as teachers of the adult population—librarians—are concerned with the most vitally important aspect of the contemporary world.

Think of what could be spread to the millions of people here in Illinois from the accumulated inspiration and beauty which is under the roofs of your libraries! Why should all those hopeful, aspiring people I saw in Chicago today be left so much to the tender mercies of the people who—for a price!—entertain them with the motion pictures, newspapers and magazines to which they are mostly accustomed? Your libraries afford finer amusement, entertainment. Yet the great masses do not come to you in sufficient numbers. They do not appreciate what you have to offer them. They have not yet learned that books are not something apart from life but that, rather, books are life—the only effective means of living greater, richer, fuller and more satisfactory lives. How tragic it really is to know that less than one book *per capita* per year is, even yet, sold in this country! When Jefferson and his fellows dreamed of universal literacy, could they have believed that such statistics would hold true in America when not only had universal literacy been achieved but when America had become the wealth-

iest land of which the world has ever dreamed!

The time is fast approaching, however, when America must turn to books. The country no longer affords physical outlet for the teeming energies of its people. Mental outlets are necessary. The chance of the libraries is coming. And I know that you will seize the opportunity when it arrives.

One way in which you can do so—it seems to me—is to stress two ideas to those who come into your libraries vaguely seeking something—they know not what. Stress the idea that knowledge is not chaotic. For there can be little doubt but that the average man and woman really feels that knowledge is either chaotic or else that it can be gained only by a few at the cost of prodigious effort. Stress the fact that your library can help the individual orient himself or herself in life and in the world of knowledge.

To come out here from Maryland I had to get time-tables. I had to know where Chicago and Joliet are. I knew where I was coming. If I were to go around the world I know—as the result of a lifetime of reading—just where I should want to go, just where the most famous, interesting and delightful places on earth happen to be.

Should not libraries be maps to men and women of today? Should they not afford understanding of the general outlines of the great world of knowledge so that, with the minimum waste motion, each individual can learn what there is to know, can go, without waste motion, to the points in the world of knowledge of maximum interest and importance to each of them?

Men have wandered aimlessly all over the world not understanding what they were seeing, not knowing that they were passing near famous and wonderful places easily accessible. Do not endless men and women wander aimlessly, without plan or direction, in that world of knowledge contained in the books on the shelves of your respective libraries? Once you can con-

vince those who come to you that knowledge is orderly and to be acquired without pain; once you can give those who come to you general orientation; can steer them away from dull books, from aimless, undirected reading, can associate books in their minds with the ideas of zestfulness, growth, adventure and guidance I think you will find more books being used and the general level of American culture rising.

Men want knowledge. They want it with the same passion they want food. Someone has well said that men remember the source of a stimulating idea as well as they remember the source of palatable food. I stand here with a plea that intellectual food deliberately and consciously be made more palatable to the people of a vast, wealthy new democracy by those entrusted with its custody—the librarians!

Vast changes are before us. Had I stood on this platform 15 years ago and predicted that within the next 15 years there would be a world war in which ten million men would die and three hundred billion dollars of wealth be destroyed; that the Romanoffs and Hohenzollerns would be overthrown, that Russia would become a Communist state and German a Socialist republic; that America would have prohibition and woman suffrage; that a man would fly across the Atlantic in 33 hours; that twenty million motor cars would be in use in America you would all have—quite likely—thot me mad. Yet those and many other quite as unlikely things did come to pass.

More will come to pass in the next 15 years. America, with six per cent of the population and half the gold of the world, will be affected by all that happens. Her security and well-being may depend upon the amount of intelligence and knowledge wisely diffused among her people. If the people come, ever more and more, to concern their minds only with sensation, with the tabloid newspaper heroes and heroines, the motion picture gods and goddesses—tabloid minds and cellu-

loid emotions!—the future of America may well be insecure and perilous. It was not to have tens of millions read about "Peaches and Browning" that Jefferson and his fellows tried to found a great democracy with universal literacy!

Dare I conclude by stating my earnest belief that if the schools and libraries more effectively fulfil the social function entrusted to them there

will be a decreasing interest in the mental pabulum that so many panders offer the American people in so many papers, magazines and motion pictures; an increasing interest in the vast new knowledge suffusing the world; an increasing recognition of the duties of the citizens of a great democracy and of the privileges of living in this sunlit, swiftly-moving, aspiring and inspiring modern world?

## The Library: A Laboratory or a Warehouse<sup>1</sup>

Dr Pierce Butler, The Newberry library, Chicago

### I

A smooth and sententious saying is as often a barrier to active thought as it is an open portal. The formula which declares that the modern library shall be, not simply a warehouse of public books, but itself a working laboratory expresses the ideal of all who are sincerely concerned with the proper functioning of this unit in our educational system. Yet one may be allowed to wonder, as he observes the actual methods and tendencies which prevail in many of our library institutions whether this ideal is really apprehended thru so wide a field as the endless repetition of such statements as our thesis might seem to signify. Such formulas often lose all significance thru glib repetition.

Here as always the force of the rule is dependent upon the significance of the terms in which it is formulated. What is meant by a laboratory and what by a warehouse? The latter word (*warehouse*) is not of itself simply a picturesque term of reproach. A warehouse, a storehouse, in its proper use serves excellent and necessary purposes in all civilized society. By only a slight shift in emphasis one may name it a treasury. No one in his senses can deny to the library as one of its necessary functions the storage and circulation of the community books. A main part of the local public library's tasks is nothing more than this: it is the warehouse of

volumes purchased from public funds and held in common ownership for those who are unable or unwilling to acquire them in private copies.

The ideal we have implied by our thesis has no quarrel with that process. It merely states that this shall not be the sole end of the library's activity. To stop here is to leave untouched a large work and one of the utmost importance for the welfare and betterment of society. The library is not only a public warehouse or treasury of books, it is a unit in the machinery of public education. Co-operating with the schools it must strive to draw children into the field of its activity, from the earliest grades and hold them, not merely to the day when they receive their final school diplomas, but thruout their lives. The library's main task is adult education, tho the means it employs are not methods of the classroom and lecture hall but those of the working laboratory.

But there are two sorts of laboratories, the laboratory of educational demonstration and the laboratory of discovery, and unfortunately when the word is ordinarily used most people think only of the second kind. It is true that the laboratory does, at times, serve as the workshop for new investigations but relatively this is seldom. In comparison with its other use, as a place for personal observation and verification of established results these occasions are rare indeed. The word *laboratory*, in its popular use bears a romantic glamour with sugges-

<sup>1</sup> Read before Illinois Library association, Joliet, October 27.

tions of a fascinating, gloomy chamber of mysterious appliances where persons of recondite learning pry into the inmost secrets of nature and of man. There are such places but they are not numerous. Probably 99 percent of the floor space and equipment which rightly bear the name of laboratory is devoted solely to endless repetition of routine demonstration. But the educational value of these institutions is beyond all measure. A learner's personal contact with the actual facts and forces of phenomena releases a pedagogical and cultural force far exceeding anything possible by textbook and lecture. Moreover it fosters habits of observation and judgment that can be formed in no other way. The whole intellectual temper of modern civilization, the scientific spirit, is a product whether at first hand or by secondary transmission of prescribed routine in laboratory practice. It is necessary then, if we are to transfer this term laboratory to summarize the ideal of the library's activity, that we be very certain that we use the term in its full significance. If we accept it carelessly with its popular limitation to the work-shop of new discovery we may easily forget the third phase of the library's activity. The public function of this institution is a three-fold activity,

- 1) to serve as a warehouse for the community store of books,
- 2) to supply facilities for original investigation and, last but foremost in importance
- 3) to create in its public, the scientific attitude.

To fulfill but one or even two of these tasks is not enough; to stop here is imperfect service.

Let us turn to a somewhat closer examination of the educational function of the laboratory as it is used for the natural sciences and summarize the results that are produced by its methods in practice.

- 1) By a personal contact of the learner with facts and phenomena it secures a vividness of impression.
- 2) It develops independence of judgment.

- a) by discipline in observation it teaches the difference between qualitative and quantitative results
- b) and brings out such elements as personal equation and the principle of permissible error,
- c) and finally it fosters intellectual courage and initiative.

3) Laboratory practice also creates the necessary ability to evaluate the observational records of others. A personal acquaintance with laboratory methods and processes enables one by constructive imagination to follow and criticize the procedure by which new results have been obtained.

Now it is not difficult to trace exact analogies to all these processes in a properly directed and intelligent use of the resources of a library. In place of the personal contact of the learner with the facts and forces of nature we have the use of primary rather than secondary material, the use of books themselves rather than books about books, literary documents rather than histories of literature, historical records themselves instead of summaries drawn from the records, and the works of thinkers rather than manuals and compends. In short, the librarian no less than the director of a biological laboratory can foster in the student primary and direct observation. Such a process will contribute the same pedagogical results as do the similar methods of the scientific laboratory.

Similarly, use of the library in laboratory practice will supply our educational practice in observation and induce the growth of independent judgment. Exactly parallel with the natural scientist's differentiation between qualitative and quantitative observations, the library has a gradation of books which is best illustrated, perhaps, by the difference between an original text and its vernacular translation. By keeping his readers aware of such distinctions and their significance the librarian, as a laboratory director, can help to build up in his readers intellectual courage and the spirit of initiative. These are qualities which depend primarily upon a clear sense of one's orientation in the field of learning.



And finally for the scientist's ability to evaluate the work of other observers is the analogous awareness of the trained library user of the existence of a man behind each book, and the habit of considering his qualifications. Even such reference tools as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the *Dictionary of National Biography* will lose the *ex cathedra* infallibility with which the beginner invests them, in his childish habit of accepting statements simply because they are "printed in a book." It is astonishing sometimes to see the expression of mental shock that comes over the

face of even a graduate student when one refers to "A. H. Bullen's statement in the DNB," and it is a shock, I believe, that is usually of permanent effect.

I have not, I fear, in all this said anything that is really new to you. Every principle that I have enunciated is more or less of a commonplace in the minds of those who give serious thought to the ideals of modern library practice. But I have, I hope, by my formulation of these established principles, set your minds running together and prepared you for a consideration of the paper and discussion which are to follow.

## II

Edward A. Henry, Readers' department, University of Chicago

Is the library a warehouse or a laboratory? I say "Both". Where is the chemical laboratory which could long function without at least a small warehouse stock of chemicals, glassware, etc? So I offer the thesis that the library is both a warehouse and a laboratory and for any library to emphasize either aspect of its functions unduly is to make a freak of itself, and at the same time, serious trouble awaits him who fails to make the distinction. The alleged warehouse type of librarian who boasted that every book belonging to the library was in its place on the shelves has certainly been dead a long time if he ever was more than a man of straw for oratorical librarians to demolish.

This pair of alternates does suggest a very interesting analysis of library personnel. Several years ago the Y. M. C. A. hotel in Chicago made an analysis of the occupations of its guests. Operating as a semi-charitable organization, it was disturbed to find a large number of "bankers" among its guests. Further investigation revealed that most of these "bankers" were either mere messenger boys in banks or, at the most, cheap bookkeepers and clerks. So it has long been true that, in the mind of the public, everyone who worked in a library was a librarian whether she were the chief librarian in charge, an assistant at the loan desk, a page in the stacks, a guard at the door or sometimes a mere janitor.

Possibly this confusion is, in part, an inheritance from the ancient days when many small town librarians were at one and the same time everything from head-librarians to janitors. But in these latter days of grace, it is time we were differentiating and at least trying to teach that differentiation to the public which never thinks of using the name "doctor" for a clerk in a doctor's office. The keenness of the public in this case is due to a clear-out definition of what it means to be a doctor. Sometimes I am inclined to believe that clear-cut definitions of terms are one of the greatest needs of the library profession today. Until we ourselves are quite certain as to whether or not a clerk at a charging desk is a librarian, we cannot be impatient when some poor uninformed soul calls a janitor a librarian. Perhaps the campaign of the American Library Association for 10,000 members has helped to lead us into confusion by leading us to believe that all members of the A.L.A. are librarians. This is not a necessary conclusion since the A.L.A. welcomes into membership all who are interested in library work. Perhaps its membership might be in classes, possibly with different fees, higher rates for librarians, trustees and institutional members, a medium rate for library assistants and a minimum rate for apprentices.

The chief personnel problems of a warehouse are two: 1) people who can

The Vailsburg branch library in Newark, N. J., was opened October 13. This is the sixth branch library building in Newark.

Herbert B. Anstaett, Columbia '27, has been appointed librarian of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.

Esther A. Bassett, Pratt '23, formerly on the staff of the Public library, Summit, N. J., was married on October 15 to Robert B. Crane.

Linn R. Blanchard, N. Y. S. '09, head of the catalog department at Princeton University since 1921, has resigned to accept a position in the order division at the Library of Congress.

Karl Brown N. Y. S. '25, has resigned his position as assistant at the New York public library to become assistant-librarian at the University of Rochester.

Mildred R. Forward, N. Y. S. '17, has returned to the City Normal School library of Rochester, N. Y., as librarian. For the past two years Miss Forward has been teaching in Burma.

Mrs Louise Harris Carmichael, Pratt '18, librarian of the Forest Park high school in Baltimore, has taken a position in the cataloging department at Columbia University library.

Miss Flora Brown, who served as assistant director of the A. L. A. Survey, has returned to the Public library of the District of Columbia as supervisor of the central loan desk service.

A new children's department has been opened in the Philadelphia City Institute, Philadelphia, that is attracting attention. The beautiful room is on the second floor and is handsomely furnished. It has an inlaid parquetry floor, and shelves and furniture of mahogany. The walls are in turquoise blue, ceiling in cream, and the woodwork, white enamel. On the walls are pictures for older children as well as for little ones. Miss Euretta Rank has been engaged as children's librarian

and under her direction the department is growing in interest.

#### Central

Lois Tullis of St. Louis has been appointed children's librarian at the Public library, Sioux City, Iowa.

Mrs Sarah Hallsted Bilby, N. Y. S. '15, has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Bexley, Ohio.

Mildred L. Batchelder, N. Y. S. '24 has been appointed children's librarian, State Teachers College, St. Cloud, Minn.

Betty Caswell, first assistant in the Beaches branch of the Public library, Toronto, was married to Dr K. C. McCarthy in August. They will make their home in Maumee, Ohio.

Gertrude Moller, for 14 years librarian of the Public library of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, has resigned to join the staff of the Illinois Historical library at Springfield.

Alma M. Penrose, Ill., B.L.S. '15, for several years librarian of the University high school, Minneapolis, has become librarian at the Public library, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Bonnie Elliott, formerly librarian of the Public library, Vincennes, Indiana, later of the Public library, Wallingford, Conn., has accepted the position of librarian at Grand River Heights, Ohio.

The John Crerar library of Chicago was bequeathed \$460,000 by the will of Robert Forsyth, consulting engineer, who died September 11. This is the largest bequest made by the deceased in disposing of his property worth \$1,000,000.

The Public library, Toledo, Ohio, has just received a gift of \$2,789 from the Toledo Polish Socialist association. This sum represents the entire balance in their treasury at the time of discontinuing their organization. This sum is to be used, principal and interest, for the development of a collection of Polish books in the Toledo public library.

The report of the Public library, Kalamazoo, Michigan, for the year shows a circulation of 365,766v., 55 per cent fiction. The library has a central building, four branches and six school stations, serving a town of 55,000. Maintenance cost, \$59,478, of which 59.8 per cent was for salaries; 22½ per cent for books, periodicals and binding; 17.7 per cent for operation. Maintenance expenditure per capita, \$1.08; per volume of circulation, 16 cents. Staff numbers 20 full time people and 15 part time.

#### South

Mrs Blanche Garber Griffin, Pratt '20, has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Winter Haven, Fla.

Henrie-May Eddy, N. Y. S. '27, resigned her position at the University of Tennessee to become reference librarian at the University of Florida.

Mary Torrance, Ill., B.L.S. '13, for a number of years librarian of the Public library, Muncie, Indiana, resigned that position in the summer to become head cataloger of Emory University library.

Charles H. Stone, (Ill.) for several years librarian of the George Peabody Technical College at Nashville, Tennessee, has become librarian of the North Carolina College for Women at Greensboro.

The Public library of Birmingham for its fiscal year recorded a circulation of 840,816, of which 770,701 were circulated in the city and 70,115 in the county department. The gain over the previous year was 124,248.

Parmalee Cheves, Atlanta '25, formerly librarian at Paducah, Ky., has been placed in charge of the East Lake branch. Ethel Taylor has become librarian of Jefferson county to succeed Marion Potts.

#### West

Maude Davis, Ill. '25, resigned as head of the circulation department at Iowa State University to take charge of the cataloging at the University of North Dakota library, Grand Forks.

#### Pacific Coast

Jessie A. Reid, Illinois, '23, has been appointed cataloger of the Public library at Santa Monica, California.

Virginia E. Pearson, Pratt '26, on the staff of the Library Association, Portland, Oregon, was married on October 6 to the Rev. Philip P. Werlein.

The Library board, Pomona, Calif., voted in July an increase of \$10 a month to each staff member who has had technical training, and of \$5 to each junior of at least one year's service.

A novel report is that sent out by the Public library, San Diego, California. The report was presented serially in the newspapers, then was clipped and pasted in book form for exchange for those who desire to keep it. The results show that it was read by very many more residents than when it had been sent out in pamphlet form. Illustrations were included and statistical comments on the various activities of the library. Altogether the report is worth while.

Total circulation, 1,276,916v. with 125,753v. on the shelves. Income for the year, \$109,751. The staff numbers 75. The system includes the main library, the annex, five branches, eight sub-branches, five stations and 96 collections in 26 schools.

The following changes in the staff of the Portland public library have been made:

Flora Campbell, Washington, '27, has been appointed an assistant in the children's department of the Main library.

Mrs Evangeline Turnbull, Washington, who for the past year has been in the catalog department of the University of Washington library, has joined the catalog department.

Virginia Pearson, Pratt, has resigned her position to marry Rev. Philip P. Werlein of San Francisco.

Ella Carrick, Los Angeles, who for the past three years has been assistant in the catalog department, has resigned to pursue her studies toward a degree at the University of Oregon.

Madelin Allen, Wisconsin, has been appointed librarian of the Roosevelt high

school, which is under the administration of the Portland library.

Alma Jonson, Pratt, has resigned her position as librarian of Jefferson high school to accept an assistantship in the library of Hawaii, Honolulu.

Mrs Dorothy S. Kelly has resigned her position as librarian of Grant high school.

Frances Bowman, Pittsburgh, for the past six years an assistant in the circulation department, has retired to devote herself to the home which she recently built.

#### Foreign

Dorothy W. Curtiss, N. Y. S. '23, assistant librarian at the State normal school, Geneseo, N. Y., has gone to the library school in Paris as instructor in cataloging for the current school year.

It has been announced by the League of Nations that John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has given \$2,000,000 for the erection of a library for the League. The council of the League will continue the support of the library which since its establishment has rapidly developed as a center for the study of problems in the field of international relations. In the development of the work of the League of Nations and the International Library office, a working library has been built up relating definitely to the work in hand.

**Wanted** — Catalogers, Los Angeles County Library. Pleasant working conditions. Two positions to fill soon, beginning \$130. Address L. A. County Civil Service Commission, Hall of Records, Los Angeles.

**Wanted** — 20 library assistants; with four year college course and library school training. Reference, work with children and schools, general circulation, cataloging. Salary \$1500-\$1860; opportunity after one year to take examination for promotion to third grade with advancement in salary. Rapid advancement for those with initiative and ambition. Age limit 30 years. In reply give references and state experience if any. Applications to be considered for appointment up to January 1, 1928. The Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, New York. (In the City of New York.)

#### To Be Had for the Asking

A list of book plays selected by the supervisor of work with schools at the 58th Street branch of the New York public library has been issued by *Year Round Bookselling News*. Copies of this list will be sent to any librarian or teacher who wishes to use it for Book Week or at any other time during the year. Address Marion Humble, Executive Secretary, N. A. B. P., 25 W. 33rd St., New York.

#### Government Publications

Most important for general use are the publications of the Children's Bureau. A little circular on Sunlight for babies has suggested beneficial treatment which has proved successful in the sunny Southwest. Other bulletins which are of the greatest assistance to parents and to those working in connection with city health departments are Infant care, Nutrition work for pre-school children, and Child management.

It is most unfortunate that we are so strongly under the impression that to do a piece of work and not get the credit for it is little less than a calamity. This habit of making the work secondary and the recognition primary is unfair to the work. It encourages a peculiar kind of ambition which is neither lovely nor productive. By doing the thing for which you may get no credit, you are building certain qualities which cannot be hidden.—*Dearborn Independent*.



Better than Library Paste but not as costly. This is a soft, white adhesive that is suitable for all general pasting work. Spreads smoothly and keeps free from mould.

Packed in gallon, quart and pint cans; also in kegs and barrels.

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And finally for the scientist's ability to evaluate the work of other observers is the analogous awareness of the trained library user of the existence of a man behind each book, and the habit of considering his qualifications. Even such reference tools as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the *Dictionary of National Biography* will lose the *ex cathedra* infallibility with which the beginner invests them, in his childish habit of accepting statements simply because they are "printed in a book." It is astonishing sometimes to see the expression of mental shock that comes over the

face of even a graduate student when one refers to "A. H. Bullen's statement in the DNB," and it is a shock, I believe, that is usually of permanent effect.

I have not, I fear, in all this said anything that is really new to you. Every principle that I have enunciated is more or less of a commonplace in the minds of those who give serious thought to the ideals of modern library practice. But I have, I hope, by my formulation of these established principles, set your minds running together and prepared you for a consideration of the paper and discussion which are to follow.

## II

Edward A. Henry, Readers' department, University of Chicago

Is the library a warehouse or a laboratory? I say "Both". Where is the chemical laboratory which could long function without at least a small warehouse stock of chemicals, glassware, etc? So I offer the thesis that the library is both a warehouse and a laboratory and for any library to emphasize either aspect of its functions unduly is to make a freak of itself, and at the same time, serious trouble awaits him who fails to make the distinction. The alleged warehouse type of librarian who boasted that every book belonging to the library was in its place on the shelves has certainly been dead a long time if he ever was more than a man of straw for oratorical librarians to demolish.

This pair of alternates does suggest a very interesting analysis of library personnel. Several years ago the Y. M. C. A. hotel in Chicago made an analysis of the occupations of its guests. Operating as a semi-charitable organization, it was disturbed to find a large number of "bankers" among its guests. Further investigation revealed that most of these "bankers" were either mere messenger boys in banks or, at the most, cheap bookkeepers and clerks. So it has long been true that, in the mind of the public, everyone who worked in a library was a librarian whether she were the chief librarian in charge, an assistant at the loan desk, a page in the stacks, a guard at the door or sometimes a mere janitor.

Possibly this confusion is, in part, an inheritance from the ancient days when many small town librarians were at one and the same time everything from head-librarians to janitors. But in these latter days of grace, it is time we were differentiating and at least trying to teach that differentiation to the public which never thinks of using the name "doctor" for a clerk in a doctor's office. The keenness of the public in this case is due to a clear-out definition of what it means to be a doctor. Sometimes I am inclined to believe that clear-cut definitions of terms are one of the greatest needs of the library profession today. Until we ourselves are quite certain as to whether or not a clerk at a charging desk is a librarian, we cannot be impatient when some poor uninformed soul calls a janitor a librarian. Perhaps the campaign of the American Library Association for 10,000 members has helped to lead us into confusion by leading us to believe that all members of the A.L.A. are librarians. This is not a necessary conclusion since the A.L.A. welcomes into membership all who are interested in library work. Perhaps its membership might be in classes, possibly with different fees, higher rates for librarians, trustees and institutional members, a medium rate for library assistants and a minimum rate for apprentices.

The chief personnel problems of a warehouse are two: 1) people who can

keep proper clerical records of what is held in the warehouse, and 2) people to transport things in and out. I am going to combine these two under the word "clerical" to cover duties connected with the library as a warehouse and then use the word "professional" for the duties connected with the library as a laboratory. Let me trace the course of a book, *à la* Charters-job-analysis plan, as it moves thru many large libraries today.<sup>1</sup>

We may discover possibly four kinds of duties in this long series. I. A highly trained professional or laboratory type of person is necessary for numbers 12 and 14, the better catalogers who digest books in order to determine subject headings and call numbers, (and I would like to submit that subject headings and call numbers are two ways of expressing the same information so might much more economically be determined at one and the same time by one person), and number 29, the reference assistant who should be highly trained in the use of reference tools so that she may quickly find the answer to any reasonable question put to her. II. A less thoro professional training is necessary for number 2, identifying books in order to order correctly, and numbers 13 and 20, revising catalog cards and filing. III. Only a good clerical or warehouse type of training is needed for numbers 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26, 31, 34 and 36, items concerned with the more careful routine work in connection with ordering, cataloging, shelf-listing, charging, discharging, etc. IV. Only simple clerical or page training is needed for the remaining numbers: 4 unpacking, 8 and 9 supplying book plates, pockets, embossing, etc.; 21, 22 and 23, pasting and marking labels and writing charging cards; 25, 27, 28, 32, 33, 40 and 41, which are page duties, and 35, 37, 38 and 39 which are simple routine tasks in connection with charging and discharging. This leaves a single item, number 30, which is performed by the readers—namely writing their call slips. Thus it appears that the vast majority

of duties in connection with a library require only clerical training, and to ask a professionally trained person habitually to perform these duties is like asking a doctor or a lawyer to write all his own letters in long hand.

I want now to call your attention to the Personnel classification standards adopted for the federal library service at Washington and which now apply in the Library of Congress and other government libraries and have been theoretically adopted by some other libraries.

#### Grade

- SP 1 (sub-professional 1) Minor library assistant. Low grade stack boys. Labelers. Stampers. Sorters. Card writers. \$900 to \$1320
- SP 2 Under library assistant. Typists. Charging and discharging clerks. Preliminary alphabetizers \$1140 to \$1500 (This is the top limit for the people in my group IV above.)
- SP 3 Junior library assistant. Apprentices who hope to become librarians either by getting some experience and then going to school or thru some rational apprentice system. \$1320 to \$1680.
- SP 4 Library assistant. Low grade catalogers, etc. \$1500 to \$1860.
- SP 5 Main library assistant. Fair catalogers. \$1680 to \$2040. From this grade the better apprentices may be promoted to P 1 while these persons who are not acquiring a well rounded training may go on to
- SP 6 Senior library assistant. General working knowledge. \$1860-\$2400.
- SP Principal library assistant. \$2100-\$2700. This is the final limit for highly experienced people who do not have general training. It is the limit for the warehouse type of person of our subject.
- P 1 (professional. Grade 1) Junior librarian. \$1860-\$2400. This is the initial grade for library school graduates and for those who have acquired professional standing by apprenticeship thru sub-professional grades 3, 4 and 5. To return to the wording of our topic again, it is the lowest grade of real laboratory work. P 1 people are under immediate supervision but do real professional work such as moderately difficult cataloging or simple reference work.
- P 2 Assistant librarian. \$2400-\$3000. Works under supervision but with limited opportunity to exercise independent judgment. Difficult cataloging. Revising. General reference work, etc.
- P 3 Associate-librarian. \$3000-\$3600. Under only very general supervision.

<sup>1</sup>The outline of 41 items of progress are omitted for the present. Those in the service will recognize them from the context.—EDITOR OF LIBRARIES.

Enjoys considerable opportunity for independent judgment and administrative responsibility. Heads of departments, etc. Librarian of small or medium sized libraries.

P 4 Librarian. Exercises general administrative supervision. \$3800-\$5000. This could be the high figure for any but the largest libraries.

P 5 Senior librarian. \$5200-\$6000. Heads of the larger departments in the largest libraries. Heads of large libraries.

Only Dr Putnam at the Library of Congress has been in P 6, chief librarian, \$7500, and he has now been advanced to P 7 and will secure a \$10,000 salary as soon as the necessary appropriation bill is passed by Congress.

I have traced this scheme thru because I thot some might be interested in it and because its distinction between professional and sub-professional is the point of our general subject and is fundamental to clear thinking. Many important facts are wrapped up in this distinction. We talk of professional recognition. That can come only to professional people who have completed a course of professional training and who have professional ability and professional ideals. If we fail to distinguish between warehouse duties and laboratory duties, between clerical or sub-professional and professional duties we can never hope to secure professional recognition. If our own thot is hazy on this distinction, the public will be hazy in recognizing us as professional people. In colleges and universities, we talk of faculty standing including vacations, retiring allowances, etc. No college is ever going to give retiring allowances to library clerks until it is prepared to give them to dean's clerks. The only hope of the professional librarian is to keep this distinction a sharp and a clear one. Personally, I am convinced that as soon as we make it clear we shall be very close to our heart's desire in this direction. (And may I throw out a suggestion that I have not time to develop? The frequent quarterly vacations of institutions like the University of Chicago and the sabbatical year of others is not for rest and recreation. It is for professional advancement.)

We hear much of economy, on every side, and the economic pressure of the day is so severe that we must be economical if we would survive. There is no economy in asking a highly trained professional person habitually to perform clerical duties. We can expect our institutions to pay \$3,000 per year to catalogers only when those catalogers stop typing or looking up initials and dates and even copying title pages onto cards and collating books. A cataloger who devotes all her time to the real professional tasks of digesting books, supplying subject headings and class numbers or of revising the work of highly trained cataloger clerks, etc. is worth \$3,000. No other is. And I say this fully aware of the fact that in doing so I am saying that very few catalogers are worth \$3,000 as they are now working. So even our salaries are involved in this distinction. In order to earn larger salaries we must distinguish between professional duties and sub-professional duties and leave to clerks or apprentices the latter. The general assistant is an *assistant* and not a professional person and belongs somewhere in the sub-professional grades 5, 6 and 7. (Incidentally, I predict that the proposed classification and compensation plans for library positions published by the Bureau of Personnel Administration this summer will break down at this point. The president of a large state university said to me last February that he saw nothing in the preliminary form of this report to convince him that the work of the librarian was a distinct profession.)

All this has implications for our joy in working. No ambitious person can be happy doing routine work. There are plenty of easy-going folk in the world who will be both happy and efficient in the sub-professional work and quite content with salaries up to the \$2,700 limit of that group. In fact, I venture the opinion that fully 80 per cent of the staff members of most large libraries belong in this group. They are excellent folks and the world's work is largely done by them. We can't possibly get on without them. But they are sub-professionals

people—not professional. This also has a bearing on recruiting. To picture to a possible recruit the joys of a professional career and then put her to work on clerical tasks, with no clear vision of an end to a necessary training period in those duties, is either to discourage her and lead her to seek a career elsewhere or else to smother her ambition, and make her into one of the more or less easy-going plodders. As I said before, we need both and there are plenty of people who will gladly recruit for warehouse duties, if you please, for sub-professional duties, if we properly present the possibilities in that field—and I am sure they will be happy in their work. But we also sorely need the people who have the spark

of genius which can be nurtured into a truly professional career. We must not smother that spark under an unintelligent jumble of mixed duties with no clear vision of release from the routine part when it has been mastered.

May I repeat that a clear understanding of the distinction called for in our subject between warehouse and laboratory duties or better, the distinction between sub-professional or clerical duties and professional duties is a fundamental one to which librarians may well apply themselves if they would attain to real professional rank with the corresponding recognition, salaries, vacations and perhaps most of all a worthy professional pride.

### The Pioneer Spirit in the Library<sup>1</sup>

Cornelia Marvin, librarian, Oregon state library, Salem

The states represented in the Pacific Northwestern library association are united by the bond of the trail and the pioneer spirit. Except for our neighbors in British Columbia, we have the common governmental, or rather territorial ancestry of the old Oregon territory. In the course of the greatest migration in history, until the recent transfer of populations of the Near East, the trail divided; there at the forks, weary and discouraged travelers were met by the lure of California, presented by persuasive and picturesque individuals whose glowing descriptions of that beautiful land with its easier trail diverted many of the less determined and hardy from the great trek to Oregon. From those difficult pioneer days to this day, the commercially minded of our own and our neighbor's citizens have persisted in persuasion and propaganda for increase of population and the disposal of products of the soil.

Those of us who are interested in the history of civilizations may look upon commercial rivalry as an interesting

game, often overplayed, but we are moved to thoughtful speculation over the historical development of this last continental frontier of the westward movement, which had its origins in the valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates. Never have the inhabitants of a long coastline had more diverse gifts of climate, of population and of political and social characteristics. Never has the democratic ideal been sought by three neighboring groups bringing toward its possible solution more strikingly different qualities—the English of Canada dominated by the story of hundreds of years of valiant struggle to protect the political rights of man, the early Latin population of California with its mission fathers and the Spanish and Mexican governors, and Oregon peopled by the hardy and independent Americans drawn from the northern and middle states, and the southern border states, to try out a new governmental experiment under pioneer conditions.

With such a difference in the family tree, is it strange that we find it profitable and exhilarating to confer on the problems of our profession—or occupation—and that we shall un-

<sup>1</sup>Address of welcome at the joint meeting of the California Library association and Pacific Northwest library association, at Gearhart, Oregon, June 13, 1927.



doubtedly bring to this conference many and different methods of work? California—the land of sunshine, of mission fathers, Spanish grandees, Fremont and the bear flag republic, the gold rush, San Francisco, the vigilance committee, the Broderick-Terry duel, the Chinese, Bret Harte and Mrs Atherton, Los Angeles and Aimee Macpherson, the Iowa farmer, and the public burning of radical books and magazines! All charm and glitter and brilliance and sudden movement, stir and prosperity! Oregon with its picturesque fur traders followed by the somber missionaries, the hard working settlers, its Champoege meeting of determined frontiersmen resulting in the formation of the provisional government characterized by the Beards in their Rise of American civilization as the incident which brought Rousseau across the Rockies “or, rather, perhaps,” they say, “the spirit of the Pilgrim fathers had descended upon the distant community.” Clearly we may trace some of our differences to the genesis of our civilization and culture.

In the early days, California Americans came to the missionary schools of Oregon and during the gold rush “one half the Willamette Valley farmers sailed down the coast to California or rode down the old fur trail; those who remained at home got richer by selling produce to Californians”; and this “agricultural prosperity gave Oregon a lead which it maintained until the rise of the fruit industry in California.”

Serious students of social groups may well inquire into the characteristics which have enabled California to enter the markets of the world thru coöperative associations while Oregon records failure in its coöperative ventures and sends its delicious prunes forth under California labels. Oregon is rural, California relatively urban. We diverge climatically, socially, commercially. We watch each other with an eager curiosity and we believe that our striking differences make us the best of neighbors. Life has always seemed easier in California, and money more plentiful. The way to Oregon was

hard overland, and the Columbia bar made difficult the access by water. The pleasure-seeker and the adventurer had also the spirit of originality, and he carried his experiments into social and political fields. He was not so highly individual, so decentralized politically as his sturdy Oregon brother. To be sure he followed in 1911 the Oregon popular government experiment of 1902—the “I and R”—and there has been constant give and take in our political and economic worlds—just now we are studying the Berkeley charter, the California tax system and the split session.

Our heritage, our educational growth, our political development, all have led to diversity of methods in libraries—in all educational growth and institutions. Oregon in its fundamental law provided for education in adopting the declaration of Nathan Dane's ordinance of 1787 that “religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to the happiness of mankind, schools and means of education shall be forever encouraged.” Its first public library was opened at Willamette Falls (Oregon City) about 1840, “The Multnomah Circulating Library”; California following in 1850 with its first in the Monterey library association. The minutes of a public meeting of the inhabitants of Oregon territory, July 5, 1843, show purchase of several law books, the nucleus of the territorial library for which the first appropriation was made in 1848; California following in 1850. California has the credit for leading the way in county libraries, as Sacramento County in 1908 contracted with the city for library extension; but Multnomah County, Oregon, has taken advantage of an act of 1903 permitting service contracts between counties and library associations; in 1911 this Oregon act was extended to the state and provided for other types of county library service. And here again, I remind my hearers that Oregon had the idea at an earlier date, as our first territorial delegate to Congress, Samuel R. Thurston, recorded in his diary on a June day in

1850 that he had written to J. McBride (and to Linn City) suggesting the idea of circulating libraries in Oregon.

County library development follows naturally the larger conception of the possibilities of the educational service of libraries. We know that the small governmental unit is doomed as a means of carrying on fundamental social and educational activities; and that the larger taxing unit makes possible a development and a bond both of which are impossible with city and county acting independently thru their local units of government. In Oregon, we have developed county libraries strangely enough more autocratic in their inception than those of California, but true to Oregon type in becoming more democratic and decentralized thru the retention of local boards and some measure of local control. We take pride in our county units for health, agriculture, education, in our fine Multnomah County library; and in the demonstration libraries of the State library service; but the tables are turned and we sit at the feet of more successful California seeking instruction and inspiration. We think they can tell us how to get financial support for all classes of libraries—local, county and state. We are certain that we can retain our cherished ideals of democracy and keep to our objectives for library service if we (the libraries) are somewhat more prosperous financially.

The present library aim and problem seems to be, not only finding the reader, but undertaking his education, assuming a task which we cannot reasonably be expected to perform since great educational institutions striving for centuries have apparently failed. At best we can help him to "know who most nearly speaks the truth." These problems, of finding the readers and gaining financial support, we have in common, as we share the glory of the romantic episodes of Drake and Captain Cook. It was an Oregon legislator who demanded in his official capacity to know who ever reads a book—and, I confess that an Oregon

librarian sometimes attempts to locate, by a process of elimination, the "reading public" which absorbs thousands of copies of *The story of philosophy* and *This believing world*—is it in city or country? In jail and prison, or at large? The Portland report in the *Mercury* about the best readers being in jail, and our own experience in finding in the prison our most learned patrons who understand Bertrand Russell's treatises on mathematics lead to reflection on the results of education and study when not accompanied by balanced judgment, creative power and community and family usefulness—do we minister only to individual satisfaction—and not toward the creation of a finer type of civilization? Norman Angell in *The Public mind* says, "Whether in fact education can help men to think and apply their intelligence to social problems is a question which organized education is only just beginning to ask; much less answer . . . . But no one, who until yesterday, had examined the method and subject matter of the education of our children would have the hardihood to suggest that that education had been devised with a view to strengthening what might be called the social judgment of the rising generation." We need not seek justification for wholesome recreation afforded by libraries.

Well, who reads? We have our great floating population said by Will Irwin to have been converted from destructive radicals to conservative family men by the possibilities of the Ford car and migratory labor in which all the family can share—do they read? We cannot be sure they are held in school long enough to learn to distinguish words—phonic combinations. (An Oregon librarian recently told me of a family sued for grocery bill, living in a tent house on rented ground, owning a new Buick, a victrola and a player piano.) Members of lodges wrapped in the mysteries of ritual and absorbed in "Floor-work" and competitive drill teams—one lodge alone is said to have 50,000 members in Oregon

—do they use our libraries? College and high-school students who have filled to overflowing all our private and state schools—and used a large proportion of our tax revenue—do they read? Teachers who must be professionally trained at public expense, and who are exhorted to become community leaders in all good thot and works—do they read? Women's club members staggering under the accumulation of civic and social burdens assumed or thrust upon them—have they time to read? Members of the Parent-Teacher associations with the responsibility for elementary education—can they bury themselves under the avalanche of educational literature telling how it has been and ought to be done? Librarians, with all the resources of their libraries, stimulated by association with books and the bookish, with the immense advantages of immediate contact with each other, first access to American Library Association *Reading with a purpose* courses, advisers to the reading public, spenders of public co-operative book funds, custodians of all knowledge—do they read?

Which one of us has followed an American Library Association course? Are we, also, the victims of the "mob reading" idea? Do we admit that any group of popular authors can profitably or advantageously select the reading of thousands? In this age of almost pathetic faith in books and in the magic of education, is there the corresponding knowledge of their beneficial use? Are we in "this land of freedom to encourage the mass posture of sitting at the feet of authority," where authority does not exist? Have we listened to the American Library Association appeal which demands to know what one does after five o'clock? Do we really think all life a void except for working hours and reading hours? Do we never long for more time for social life, for gardens, for family, for voluntary community service? The A. L. A. reports widely the phenomenal use of its reading courses in the Sheridan branch in Chicago, proudly

relating the tale of one person who had completed three courses in one year, but the judge and jury still call for exhibit "A"—and ask whether he is in jail or free and what individual satisfaction and public use resulted from the three courses. We might be inclined to locate the reading public in the open country did we not recall the marvelous use of city libraries like Portland. We must decide that its limits and boundaries are not geographical. It is a fascinating subject for conference discussion outside the formal meetings—we know it exists. It is our stimulus by day and our anxiety by night.

We know we must place our best library people where they may use wide book knowledge for the benefit of library patrons. We must learn to give reading its right and proper place without exaggeration. We know that the thot stream of the modern world flows thru and is controlled by newspapers, radio, motion pictures—and libraries—but do we know how to organize and conduct libraries to play their part?

These are very humble and natural reflections at the opening of a library conference. Let us question ourselves. It is said a leader needs a magnet in his pocket and a compass in his hand—have we the magnet and where does the compass point? We are the political and social descendants and heirs of pioneers who had a passionate belief in the common man and in his ability to organize a society in which he could live a life free from restraint and intolerance, and enriched by all that his predecessors had found good. We are, or should be pioneers in spirit, for library practice is not fully formulated nor are library possibilities all found, nor half foreseen. We must use our best intelligence to find the way to serve—and it can't come entirely thru uninspired "surveys"—let us help the younger generation of librarians by telling them of our mistakes, and let us put them on the right road. It is "not a swan song, but a prospectus," that is needed,

as Mr Dewey said. We are here to plan for working out our common problems in our individual ways, to share our experiences in our small part of this undertaking, a part which we know may be made larger and finer;

and we of Oregon have gathered with unusual joy and anticipation because of the opportunity afforded by the presence of our successful neighbors whom we welcome and whose success in our field we willingly and happily applaud.

### Letters—Information and Discussion

#### English and American Sequel Stories Editor, **LIBRARIES**:

Having accepted the invitation of the Association of Assistant librarians, of which I am a past president, to bring out a revised edition of the above work, compiled by my predecessor, Mr Thomas Aldred, I must appeal for the coöperation of other students of the novel. It is quite obvious to anyone conversant with the labor involved in such a compilation that one man cannot carry out the work properly, and it was conditional to my receiving assistance that I undertook the revision.

I should, accordingly, be obliged to any of your readers who let me have notes of any sequel-stories they come across in their reading. Sequels may be taken to be: stories in which the same character appears in more than one book; a series comprising a continuous narrative of events; and trilogies and similar works.

I may add that all profit arising from the sale of the above work will go to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Association of Assistant librarians.

W. H. PARKER  
Librarian

Public libraries,  
Mare St.,  
Hackney, E. 8,  
England.

#### Another Fraud

##### Editor, **LIBRARIES**:

A man giving the name of Van Dusen and claiming to be librarian of the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, called at Cossitt library several days ago and after posing, proceeded to explain the loss of his money at which

point I became suspicious and dismissed the man from my office. A letter from the president of the Colorado School of Mines advises that no person by the name of Van Dusen has been librarian, or ever graduated from the school. This information, if made public, may prevent this individual from imposing upon someone.

J. CUNNINGHAM  
Librarian

Memphis, Tenn.

#### Nobody to Blame

##### Editor, **LIBRARIES**:

The November issue of **LIBRARIES** published a letter under the caption "Who is responsible?" and as one of the party traveling under the care of the A. L. A. travel committee I am in a position to give the writer some of the desired information from my own experience.

The British committee representing our hosts in Great Britain extended their invitation for the hospitality of the pre-conference week thru the A. L. A. *Bulletin* without making any limitation to special delegates, thus confirming their cordial oral invitations at Atlantic City last year. When I wrote to enroll with the A. L. A. European party, I asked whether I was entitled to share in the special hospitality offered us, since I was in no sense officially delegated. I felt that I would rather pay my own expenses than impose on generosity. The Travel committee replied that others of the party had raised the same question and they would find out definitely. Later, we were informed that there was no such limitation and American



librarians could feel entirely free to accept. So I think there is no question but that all the American members of the party had a perfect right to be there. If they did not all measure up to the ideal standard the fault must lie within the personnel of our profession and it is useless to assume a "holier than thou" attitude and deplore that others do not make such creditable guests as we believe ourselves to be.

It seems to me that some such statement as this in reply to B is only fair to the Travel committee and the touring company, whose efforts in preparing a delightful tour were so successful in every way. Y

#### Mrs Leicester's School

One of the children's classics, Mrs Leicester's school, by Charles and Mary Lamb, which has been out of print for some time, has recently been republished by the E. P. Dutton Company. The new edition is an oblong small quarto in form and contains the attractive pictures in color by Winifred Green, which added to the popularity of the English edition of 1899, and which seem now inseparable from the text. In writing the stories, the authors drew largely upon their own childhood experiences, so that the book is not only liked by children, it has an autobiographical interest for older people. It is a landmark in the development of a special literature for children, and it is, also, an addition to our collection of beautiful books which give pleasure because of the form.

The new edition has been brought out at the request of the Committee on Production of children's books.

ELVA S. SMITH  
Chairman

Carnegie library,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

#### Ennobling—A Better Word

Editor, LIBRARIES:

At the recent meeting of the Illinois library association, I was struck anew with the frequent use of the phrase,

"Cultural reading," "cultural purpose," etc. Somehow the use of the word "cultural" as I heard it from young and old, from student and from sage, and as one sees it over and over, jars on my sense of fitness. It has so many meanings in so many different relations that somehow it smacks of too many things to use it so frequently in regard to the study or use of books.

If many of the readers of LIBRARIES agree with me, I urge that we all use the word "ennobling" in speaking of reading that enlarges and refines our mental conceptions of the things of the mind. Is this pedantic? I hope not. I don't feel pedantic. I feel very humble, so will ask to remain

UNDISCOVERED

#### Of Interest

The Literary Guild has selected for its December book *The Vanguard*, by Arnold Bennett, which is to be published by George H. Doran Company.

The merger of the publishing houses of Doubleday, Page and George H. Doran Co. is announced under the new firm name of Doubleday, Doran and Co.

Frederick A. Stokes Co., 443 4th Ave., New York City, offer to those asking for it, a Library Poster—simple and dignified and decorative—two paragraphs from May Lamberton Becker's "Adventures in reading" set in beautiful large type with a border and initials.

Original leaves from old manuscripts and books, "every letter set by hand and printed on handmade paper by the greatest printers the world has ever known," are now offered at a reasonable price by the Foliophiles, Inc., 32 W. 58th Street, New York City. These pages, from old bibles, old missals, and works in various literatures, have been obtained from defective copies of rare manuscripts and books altho the pages themselves are in perfect condition. Such leaves are valuable for any library, especially for display purposes.

Monthly—Except August  
and September

# Libraries

216 W. Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Mary Eileen Ahern, Editor

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Subscription - - - - -	\$3 a year	Five copies to one library - - -	\$12 a year
Current single number - - - -	35 cents	Foreign subscriptions - - -	\$3.50 a year

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By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money-orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of **LIBRARIES** should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

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## LIBRARIES

THE INDEX TO VOLUME 32 WILL BE ENCLOSED IN THE JANUARY NUMBER.

### Mid-Winter A. L. A. Meetings

**M**EETINGS of various A. L. A. committees have been arranged for December 29-31 in Chicago in accordance with the custom of many years. This has been made necessary by the crowded programs of the annual meetings where little time is available for important business matters which demand serious consideration. There is room to query, however, if it is to the best interests of all concerned that one and another sections, round-tables and other groups should hold meetings where addresses are made, where discussions arise which might well be postponed till the

whole body of interested persons can be present. Those who need the most to hear these discussions are the very ones who are unable for various reasons to attend two A. L. A. meetings in a year. They miss one or the other part of what is said. The tense, crowded rush from one to another subject and place leaves little or no time to think, weigh and measure the ideas presented, and hasty opinions, not always wise, are often formed. Here is a matter that deserves consideration from the council? from committees? from officers? Well, from somebody able and ready to discuss it!

### Geographical Considerations in Association Elections

**T**HE composition of executive boards of library organizations, for state activities especially, might receive a little attention in one particular that would make for greater ease in holding conference meetings and lessen expense for all concerned.

It may be observed that usually the thot in nominations is to give representation to all classes of members and second to recognize the claims of different geographical parts of the state. The major value of these bases may be questioned. There are also inher-

ent obligations of a different sort. There is ground for saying the major that in choosing executives, and especially the president, is to select outstanding individuals in relation to the duties which are to be performed in the offices to be filled.

The first requisite, of course, to be found in a person considered for office is membership in the organization. This should carry with it all the rights and privileges that belong to a membership that is unrestricted. After that, in making choice, good judgment and loyalty to the best interests of the organization in every direction demand the best work the committee is capable of doing. It would seem that geographical division of officers often entails division and loss of a full measure of duty and service to the organization. The idea in the selection on geographical lines has much to commend it in general, but it may, and frequently does, work a hardship on the members which means loss of official service to the executive board.

It is the custom of the association in a long state to alternate the locality of its meetings, for example, north one year, center the next, and south the next, and to select its officers on the same basis, selecting the three main officers at least from the two extremities and the center of the state. But it may be asked if a plan that would choose the executive board from the locality in which the meeting is to

be held would not result in a concentration of effort on the part of both the officers and members of the organization, and perhaps of the local community, that in time would result in a better understanding, a more definite uplift of and greater devotion to library service than can result under the phase of touch and go in the present plan. A friendly rivalry in accomplishment under these circumstances would not be a handicap to progress. A completely new environment might bring some new viewpoints in speeches, presentations and deliberations, always a welcome situation. Short distances between the locations of the officers would afford more frequent personal conferences and insure continued and accomplishing interest in the several duties to be performed, at less expense both to the officers and to the association.

The state associations are by all odds the most important factors in the development of library service in general. They create and maintain the library spirit without which the service of even the A. L. A. itself will not go far. They have been the reservoir from which the vision, the strength and accomplishment of library service are constantly replenished, and their highest good is worthy of all honor and all effort, and whatever will conserve their strength in all directions should redound to their own well-being.

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### Fair Judgments of Cities

THE OFT repeated statement that the United States is a nation of "money makers" carries with it another meaning beside the implication

of something not quite praiseworthy that its user generally laughs into it. To make money honestly is not a misdemeanor. It takes courage to do so,

it takes industry, it takes sacrifice sometimes, and these are praiseworthy qualities wherever they exist. But in seeing only the ability of Americans to make money, one misses the other side of the story—they are also *money givers*, oftentimes beyond their real ability to give. That many persons of means choose their own time, objects and mode of giving is not a matter for adverse criticism. Who has a better right to dispose of his substance than the one who has honestly accumulated it?

Without at all being puffed up about their accomplishments, it were well for many cities if fairminded citizens gave impartial accounts of things worth while for the public's information, seeing the newspapers of today have chosen to give the less worthy aspects of life such leading places and notice as to lead the world to think of American cities as far less worthy of respect than the great abundance of good things their deserts may rightly claim.

It seems a great pity that human nature is so prone to stress the least admirable qualities rather than those

more worth while. Such a course gives wrong impressions even when falsehood is not expressed—the following excerpt from a Detroit paper illustrates the point in question:

Thru a number of spokesmen lately, Chicago confesses to be weary of a reputation it has earned thru the antics of some of its public officials. They ask that the country lend a thot occasionally to "the other Chicago," the great city which contributes so largely to American art and learning, to philanthropy, to social advance and to civilization in general.

It is the misfortune from time to time of every American city that its substantial self is obscured by the vagaries of some of its citizens who achieve a sort of temporary eminence thru the political accidents which are part of the price of democracy. Yet these have no real relation to the community's underlying spirit. The civic spirit of such a city as Indianapolis is not reflected in the present debacle in the city hall any more than such a man as Hylan typified the substance of the New York spirit or its civilizing force.

Self-government has its own hazards, and the errors which sometimes grow out of it may temporarily impede an ideal or dim a vision. But in the end the concession comes not from those who hold the vision fast. It is in the nature of things that those who impede a city's sounder spirit are governed always by expediency, which is helpless in the end before the permanent and irresistible pressure of the forces which represent its civilizing influences.—*Detroit News*.

### Death's Toll

John Parker, librarian emeritus of the Peabody Institute, Baltimore, died, October 31, 1927. He was born in New York, November 9, 1852, but practically his entire life was spent in Baltimore. Immediately after his graduation from the City College he entered the service of the library in 1871 and for 55 years, until advancing years and illness required his retirement, was a loyal and devoted officer of that institution. On the completion of 50 years of service, he was honored by the trustees, who ordered a portrait to be painted and hung in the reading room, and presented him with a purse of \$500.

Mr Parker succeeded the late Philip Reese Uhler as librarian, in 1913, and was succeeded in June, 1926, by Mr L. H. Dielman. Being of an unusually modest and retiring disposition, Mr Parker was known to comparatively few of his fellow citizens, and his life was spent in almost cloistered seclusion among the books he loved. The 13 volumes of the printed catalog of the Peabody library constitute his monument.

### Exchanges Desired

American libraries will be interested in a communication addressed to the U. S. minister to Peru, Hon Miles Poindexter, by Senor Augusto Aguirri



Morales, director of the *Editorial y Biblioteca El Libro Nacional* of Lima, Peru.

The objectives of this institution as indicated in the prospectus which accompanies the communication are, in the first place, the publication and distribution of works by Peruvian authors, especially such as deal with the various aspects of Peruvian life and culture; and also the editing of a monthly *Boletín bibliográfico* which will represent the cultural activities of the country. It will also serve as a general center of information.

In the second place, this institution will correct and make available to Peruvian students material relating to friendly countries.

For the accomplishment of these ends and for the development of sound international understanding, the institution wishes the names of libraries and other establishments in this country which desire to receive its publications and bulletins. It wishes, also to receive for its library, books of North American authors, periodicals, bulletins, memoirs and official publications.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Director, Casillo 2094, Lima, Peru.

#### Book Fair in Italy, 1928

The Government in Italy is making preparations for its third International Book Fair to be held in Florence in the spring of 1928. Chief-of-State Benito Mussolini will preside over the committee of honor. The International book fairs held in Italy in 1922 and 1925 were eminently successful, and "remembering the high cultural purposes which are sought in this initiative," the Italian government is once more giving "its whole support to the forthcoming fair in which other foreign governments have also been invited to take part."

#### United States Civil Service Examination

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open com-

petitive examination to fill a vacancy in the United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.

Competitors will not be required to report for examination at any place, but will be rated on their education, experience, and fitness; and a thesis or publication to be filed with the application.

The duties of the position at the Naval Observatory are to have charge of the highly specialized library consisting of works on astronomy, mathematics, and physics, and including numerous collections of the transactions of the principal scientific societies.

The entrance salary is \$3,000 a year. A probationary period of six months is required.

Applications for associate librarian must be on file with the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., not later than December 13.

#### A Librarian As a Playwright

Librarians who remember with pleasure, the librarian who left the Cincinnati public library work to write plays, some dozen or 15 years ago, will be pleased to know that success still attends her effort. Elizabeth McFadden has *Why the chimes rang*, *The Man without a country*, and *The Boy who discovered Easter* to her credit with successful presentations, and also the *Product of the mill*, a play in four acts.

This latter was the second play awarded the Craig prize offered to the students of Professor Baker's 47 Workshop. It was first produced at the Castle Square Theater where it ran for 59 performances. It is a serious play dealing with the theme of child labor, which is most grippingly and colorfully presented. The play is now for the first time offered to the Little Theaters which doubtless will be glad to have so popular a piece that may be so easily presented. There are four scenes in modern costume, requiring nine men, seven women, two boys and extras. For permission and information concerning rules of presenting the play, address Samuel French, 25 W. 45th St., New York City.

### Libraries and Public Welfare

Library interests had a place on the program of the Illinois conference on public welfare and its study courses held in Joliet, October 17-21. There were five short intensive courses of study held previous to the conference, all dealing with important factors in public welfare. The Illinois state library, by request, furnished a librarian who was in charge of a reading room for those enrolled in the study courses. Each instructor submitted a bibliography on his subject. The books on the list were borrowed from the State library and various other special libraries for the two days study course with Miss F. Grace Walker, reference librarian of the Illinois state library, in charge.

Library matters were again to the fore on the evening of October 20 at the annual dinner when the state librarian was one of the 16 speakers, who were limited to five-minute statements and all spoke interestingly and yet kept within the bounds. Miss Harriet M. Skogh, superintendent of the Illinois state library and also president of the Illinois library association, spoke as follows:

The same government which has a compulsory school system in which we learn to read, also wisely permits libraries to provide books that those reading interests may be developed and continued. The library has been called a social memory, a sociological laboratory, a symbol of democracy in that it provides opportunity for those who have, and for those who might otherwise be entirely without educational resources. Public welfare work has been characterized as the very embodiment of the American ideal in that it works toward making democracy effective in the unequal places, in the preventive as well as remedial construction of that task. Cannot librarians claim a share in that ideal?

A wisely selected collection of books, interpreted by an understanding, effective soul whose love for books is equalled by a sympathetic interest in

people, is a promotion of the public welfare.

In President Coolidge's dedication of the South Dakota College library this fall, he said:

Books contain not only the priceless records of the past, but they are to a large extent the hope of the future . . . A liberal education may begin in the classroom, but it will scarcely rise above mediocrity unless it is extended into the library and by that means broadened into the practical experience of life . . . It is true there is a very large field of education that lies entirely outside of books, yet books are the foundation of all education."

If in the earlier day the library was simply a storehouse for information, today it is working toward a place as a vital force in civic life. Thru this have come special children's librarians, school librarians, readers' advisers, hospital librarians, business, civic and technical departments in larger libraries, branch libraries, deposit stations and book delivery autos for outlying districts of larger cities. The librarian studies home, business and educational interests of the community in order to make the library an effective help.

As a pertinent application of this statement, consider the literature of social work—a generation ago limited indeed—today a steadily increasing store of publications on such subjects as poverty and its causes, standards of living, child labor, unemployment, care of the sick, control of disease, mental hygiene, housing betterment, town and city planning, in short, an abundance of material on what Devine calls the salvage and repair service of the community housekeeping, the getting rid of bad conditions and helping people who cannot help themselves. You perhaps do not expect to find this in your library, but if it is not there, your librarian knows how to borrow it for you.

"That all sounds very well," you may say, "but we do not even have one library in our whole county," or, "that little library in our little town cannot do these things." If enough people in the I. L. A. and out of it work hard

enough for it, there may be many libraries serving whole counties some day, and until then, the little library does not stand alone. Your radio set may not be powerful enough to reach the farthest stations, but thru a network of connecting stations you hear the best from far off cities. In the network of libraries over Illinois (and of the 251 public libraries, 200 are in cities of less than 10,000 population) book service is not limited to the local collection, but broadened by an inter-library loan system so that books from the State Library collections in Springfield may be borrowed wherever needed by earnest reader or student, and may be supplemented if necessary by books from the State University library, the special libraries of Chicago and elsewhere. The state's resources of books, magazines, and pictures are also at the service of schools and villages and country dwellers having no access at all to local libraries.

Among the average expenditures reported for all purposes other than public utilities and interest on debt in 15 large Illinois cities not including Chicago, these items caught my attention: Out of each tax dollar, at the top of the column almost 52 cents for schools, at the bottom less than one cent for charities, toward the middle of the column a bit under 4 cents for recreation and below that two amounts exactly alike—less than two cents for the conservation of health, and less than two cents for libraries. Without statistical comment, let us add to library possibilities for public welfare this suggested analogy of the library as a conservation of those ideas and ideals which make for the health of mind and spirit in the community.

May we not say that the child whose interest has been awakened in home, school or library to the treasures of children's lore in books has been given not only a childhood joy, but a reading interest which will help in making the adjustments of later years, add to happiness and tranquillity of mind and spirit as life goes on, and inoculate

against the epidemic restlessness of the times? Can we say that the recreation and renewed interest brought to tired minds by wholesome reading may not add to family welfare as well as individual enjoyment? Or that the boy or girl, man or woman, whose way to formal education has been blocked, has not been given a chance for a less embittered attitude toward life and the whole social order, by finding in the library helps for the daily work, a stimulation to endeavor, an increase of knowledge, and a widened horizon thru association in books with people and affairs quite beyond the everyday limitation of time and environment? Reading and thinking, and applying that to daily living, has made many a life strong and purposeful.

We do not, we are told, so much need new truths and new remedies for social ills, as the wider and better understanding of those we already have. Scrooge's plea to the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come may well be echoed by us all. "I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."

Andrew Carnegie in a symposium conducted by an illustrious A. L. A. president years ago said: "You ask what I would consider the most valuable accomplishment of the public library movement in the past decade, and I answer: the spread of the truth that the public library free to all the people, gives nothing for nothing, that the reader must himself climb the ladder, and in climbing, gain knowledge how to live this life well."

Ask your librarians for coöperation and help. You will find them ready and willing to give it.

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After the age of 14, only one in every five continues school life until the age of 18. For those who drop out of school, education must come largely thru reading, and here is where a public library can give valuable assistance as long as it is used.

## A. L. A. Midwinter Meetings

(Star indicates closed meetings)

	Morning 10:00—12:30	Afternoon 2:30—5:00	Evening 8:00
Tuesday Dec. 27	*Board of Education for Librarianship *Editorial Committee	*Board of Education for Librarianship *Editorial Committee	
Wednesday Dec. 28	*Executive Board	*Executive Board	
Thursday Dec. 29	Council	12:30 American Library Institute (Board Meeting) Luncheon Meeting 2:30 American Library Institute. Open Meet- ing *Board on the Library and Adult Education *Education Committee *Library Extension Com- mittee Business Libraries Round Table	*Board on the Library and Adult Education *Education Committee *Library Extension Com- mittee
Friday Dec. 30	Council	1:00 Committee on Journal of Discus- sion. Luncheon meet- ing College and University Librarians Joint Ses- sion League of Library Commissions Librarians of Large Public Libraries	*Charters Curriculum Study and Library School Directors Librarians of Large Pub- lic Libraries
Saturday Dec. 31	College Librarians of the Middle West *Board of Education for Librarianship	*Association of Ameri- can Library Schools Normal School and Teachers College Li- brarians University and Refer- ence Librarians	

## The Library at Law

As the basis for a report on the public library at law which the Committee on library legislation of the American Library Association proposes to compile, the undersigned would be glad to receive information regarding any cases at law, particularly civil actions, to which public libraries have been parties, either as plaintiffs or defendants. Communications on the subject should give as exact information as possible, the time, place and names of parties to the suit. If formal citations to the history of the case can not be given, a note on the cause of action and the decision would be useful. To avoid useless

repetition may I say that the following cases have already come to the attention of the committee:

Des Moines, Iowa, and Marion, Ind., covering the power of the library board to levy library tax.

Providence, R. I., involving the legality of duplicate pay collections.

Owensboro, Ky., involving refusal of city to appropriate money in accordance with agreement under which Andrew Carnegie gave building and where police court fines and forfeitures were not paid into library fund as required by state law.

Louisville, Ky., in which escheat of library property was claimed.

Information and suggestions will be welcome.

Public library  
Riverside, California

CHAS. F. WOODS,  
Librarian



## Illinois Library Association

### Thirty-first Annual Meeting

The Illinois library association held its annual meeting in Joliet, October 27-29, 1927

#### Business session

Upon arriving for the opening session on Thursday morning the delegates were greeted by the hostess librarians, Mrs. Rena Barickman of the Joliet public library, Miss Spangler of the Joliet Township High School library, and Miss Dillman of the Joliet Junior College library.

When the president, Harriet M. Skogh, opened the session a most cordial welcome to Joliet was extended by the mayor, Hon. George F. Sehring, and to the libraries by the president of the Public Library board of trustees, John D'Arcy.

Committees for various duties of the meeting were appointed by the president.

The financial report showed total receipts, \$1,314; disbursements, \$326; balance on hand, Oct. 27, 1927, \$988.

This report did not include the expenses of the 1927 convention and the *Handbook*, which will amount to about \$550.

#### Report of Legislative committee

The most important report of the session was that of the Legislative committee, Spencer Ewing, Bloomington, chairman. The main points in the report were as follows:

Two major projects, were chosen as needing legislative attention, an increase in the rate of taxation for public libraries in the state, and the matter of permission to township and village libraries to combine their taxing powers in the formation of community libraries.

The need in Illinois for rural libraries has been felt and is now expressed in the county library law. This law has not lent itself very graciously to the formation of such libraries and this may be due to its inherent faults, but its working or lack of working qualities leaves the need for rural libraries as alive as ever. With over 50 per cent of the residents of the state as ruralites without library facilities, it becomes almost a vital necessity that some action be taken in a crystallized form to provide library service for these people. With the advance of educational facilities and the fact that such facilities are now being taken ad-

vantage of with the corresponding raising of the intellectual standard of those not living in cities, comes the need more and more actively expressed for library privileges and this voice we can no longer ignore had we any desire to do so.

This the committee felt and incorporated in their bill a very simple change in the present township library law, to the effect that upon the vote of the people of any township, they could form a library as under the present law, with the additional privilege of contracting with any library already formed for library service, or they could pursue this method and with an arrangement or a contract with another township which would go thru the same process, could combine and with this township or any number of townships similarly acting, form a community library.

Financially this would enable small communities to gain the advantage of a well equipped library, which would be impossible in the case of one township, the size of the unit in this case being too small financially to operate successfully a library in any sense worth while.

The first and major feature of the bill involving increase in the tax rate came about thru the increase in the urban population and the change in their method of living. As the larger towns grew more populous and congested, it was found that this congestion could be traced to the great spread of apartment house building, throwing into one space many times the number of people theretofore occupying it. As the major portion of the taxes is raised upon real estate values, the per capita taxes decreased and the assessed values did not keep pace with the per capita increase in population. Therefore, with the larger number of people to serve and very little more value upon which to base taxation, the libraries in the larger municipalities felt this keen need of funds.

Increase in taxation is exceedingly unpopular and, as the legislative committee in its activities before the legislature pointed out, such increase in taxation was only *permissible* and not *mandatory*. In every instance, such increase would have to be voted upon by the city council or by the people themselves, and each community would be, therefore, the judge of what taxes they chose to raise and spend for library purposes, thus giving thoro local option in effect to this bill.

These two features were incorporated in a bill and sent to the legislature. It passed the Senate committee without dissenting

voice, and afterwards passed the Senate—on all three readings unanimously. It also passed the House committee and its three readings without a dissenting voice. Thus we have a record on this bill before the legislature of its never having had a dissenting vote. With this record behind it for this bill, your committee doubtless thru over-confidence may have committed an error. The bill having met with such a wonderful response before the two houses of the legislature, it was thot that this would show the governor that there could be no objection to it and that as the entire legislature were in favor of its provisions, that it must necessarily be an excellent bill. But the governor vetoed the bill after the session had adjourned, with the statement that the non-taxing features were very meritorious, but inasmuch as it tended to increase taxes, he felt compelled to veto it.

During the progress of the course of this bill, the greatest coöperation possible was had from the various library boards thruout the state, not only those affected directly by the bill but those who had the good of the library cause in this state close to their hearts. It is my belief that no bill has ever gone thru the legislature with such a full understanding by our law-makers of its provisions.

We recommend that this bill be introduced at the next session of the legislature. It seems to meet the requirements, and the fact that it is a double bill in that it provides a combination of township libraries and also increased tax rate, makes it an easier bill to handle.

The award of a trip to the state meeting for the most convincing statement on "Why public libraries in Illinois need more money now than they did in 1921" was made to Emily Cartwright of Oregon.

Anna May Price, superintendent of the Extension division of the State library, reported that the regional conferences were growing better each year in the interest taken in them and especially in the attendance, 549 registered this year, 130 of whom were trustees. There were 224 libraries represented. The meetings give an opportunity to discuss problems of smaller libraries and have proven of great value. She asked for continued support for the regional conferences.

Invitations for the conference next year were received from the Moline public library, by their librarian, Alice Williams, and from the Edgewater Beach hotel, Chicago.

Very helpful maps of the city, made by Mary Spangler of the Joliet Township High-school library, were presented to the visitors.

A luncheon meeting with Miss Skogh presiding, gave the occasion to hear Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of *LIBRARIES*, with the subject "As I went a-visiting", tell in her most entertaining manner of her trip to Europe and the British Isles during the past summer before attending the meeting of the British Library Association in Edinburgh.

Going back to Paris, it was found quite different from the Paris of 1918 and 1919 which the A.L.A. war workers knew. The former A.L.A. headquarters, now the American Library in Paris, was revisited and enjoyed under the guidance of Burton E. Stevenson, the director. An old papal palace is hardly an ideal place to house a library, but it has been made much more modern and is much better arranged than it was at first, tho very crowded and inadequate for its purpose. The Paris library is expected to be, in time, a center of information on all American matters relating to the internal affairs, progress and conditions of the United States in every line of human endeavor. Publishers' exhibits of new books in the Paris library were noted as an idea worth trying in our own libraries.

On this trip, little time was given to seeing churches, but Chartres and St. Denis were visited.

After a stormy passage across the channel, one day was spent in London, which happened to be the day after Cornhill fell in. Such an accident rather dulled enthusiasm for subways in Chicago's sandy soil.

The weeks in England were spent seemingly in an English story-book, while visiting a former Illinois librarian in her beautiful fifteenth century country house in Sussex. The house was impressive with its carved oak beams, stairways and wainscotings and interesting with its tradition. Sussex was proclaimed a beautiful and restful part of England in which to enjoy a vacation. The whole

<sup>1</sup> Secretary's notes.

countryside was charming with its fields, almost like our gardens, its lanes and hedgerows which the incessant rain kept always green and fresh, even tho it made galoshes necessary for tramping country by-ways. Traveling around the vicinity in the country of Wordsworth, Coleridge and Shelley was much like wandering thru a book.

One especially noticeable thing in the British Isles was the number of rural churches. Going inside, few people were found in attendance, but the imposing structures add much to the landscape.

A few days were spent in Mineshead, a beautiful seaside resort on the channel, and Barnstable, where a New Englander would feel as much at home as in Barnstable, Massachusetts. The library in Barnstable was found to be rather pitiful from an American viewpoint. It was crowded to overflowing with rare books of every kind. Those in charge were more proud of the first editions, seventeenth century newspapers, even if preserved in unreadable condition, of their marvelous collections of classical literature and old scientific works than concerned with having the library really useful to the people of the place.

Cardiff in Wales was the next stop where another library was visited. The library building was originally intended for a museum, so with three sides on adjoining streets, there was only one entrance and inside, one was constantly stepping up and down to different floor levels. Small provision was made for children and there was very small space in which to see and select books. The best room in the library was given to newspapers, which was also true in other libraries in England, Scotland and Ireland. The newspaper rooms were always crowded; upon inquiry it was found that the news so eagerly sought was not political but betting tips. Branch libraries were found to be more modern, usually, than the main libraries.

From Cardiff to Cork was the next stage of the journey. Here were found the most fertile fields, the most diversified industries, apparently prosperous conditions and nice young people. Few libraries were to be seen. The city

has a Carnegie library but a library far from modern according to our standards. Its books were burned during the "trouble" and at the time many books were sent from America to help replace the loss, but only a few with the U. S. imprint are to be found on the shelves now. A proffered endowment for children's books was refused by the librarian with the reply that it might pauperize the people. The librarian in charge of the library in the most progressive city in Ireland was spending his time writing his own catalog cards, because he liked the work but utterly despised a typewriter. With such library service, the chance for an educated citizenship or for the children in the library is questionable.

The journey continued to Galway, beautifully situated on a hill surrounded by the bay, where the famous ruins of the Lynch house where "lynch law" originated, is one of the sights not to be missed. Here was found a county librarian who really seemed to be endowed with the library spirit. On to Mallaranny in the northwest of Ireland, which with its lakes, mountains, rivers, waterfalls and sea is even more beautiful than Killarney.

The Dublin library service was much like that in London; following London ways in many other things as well, it has no central library. Half a dozen towns have been combined to form the city and each continues to have its own church, school and library. The National library in Dublin is wonderful both in its collections and service, but the chief librarian is more interested in rare manuscripts than in people. His chief interest in going to Edinburgh was not for the celebration meeting, but that he might see a treasured manuscript in the University library. With the lack of educational facilities in Ireland, it seemed not praiseworthy to spend money for rare books when the young people need others so badly. Rain every day in Ireland and cold all the time did not contribute to the comfort of the visit.

Miss Ahern's story of "visiting" ended upon arrival in Edinburgh for the meeting of the British Library Association.

*Thursday afternoon session**College and reference section*

The meeting of the College and Reference section was directed by Dr Pierce Butler, Newberry library, Chicago, who after a few introductory remarks presented a paper on The library—a laboratory or a warehouse (see page 529).

He was followed by Dr E. A. Henry of the University of Chicago libraries (see page 531).

Mr P. L. Windsor of the University of Illinois led the discussion. He thought all college librarians would not agree on the presentations, there would be a diversity of opinion. "The differentiations made by Mr Henry are difficult to keep not only in libraries but in other callings. Physicians are certainly classed as professionals. But many of them will admit that most of their time is spent on merely routine work, and with chemists, there are probably only two or three in any one institution spending most of their time on research work. Most chemists, perhaps, are engaged in routine. Many leaders in the library profession have spent not a few hours or days but months and years in what is termed drudgery and routine, contributing indirectly perhaps but certainly contributing to development of theories."

Mr Henry said that there was no objection to blending duties, his point being that we should be aware of what we are doing.

Mr Hanson of the University of Chicago, requested that the papers be printed in *LIBRARIES*, that they may attract further discussion. He thought the contents of books should enter into the handling of them. Working with books is educational. Two years under right direction might be called equivalent to a year's school work. The privilege of examining books, the questions at the reference desk are means of education. "I don't like the idea that people handling books are not going to have a chance to develop into something professional, that a certain number must be kept down."

Mr Windsor commented on the practice of instructors sending students to the college library without adequate instructions as to what is wanted. The plan was tried at his library of having the professors come to the library and sit in the reference room to answer questions and offer necessary suggestions for effective work. A few tried it but do not like it. It is too hard work. The students profited but the instructors said it was wearing work and ceased to come. Reference librarians do it day after day. Professors do not appreciate how much the reference librarian does for his students. It were well sometimes instead of calling up a professor for further information on what was wanted that the librarian send the class back to the instructor for better instruction. Reference librarians are sometimes guilty of doing too much for professors.

Mr Windsor opened the discussion on the open shelf collection. This term he did not consider to include special rooms like standard literature rooms or reserve book rooms. There was a question as to whether open shelves should contain only informational books or some that will get a grip on the student and give him that book sense which he should get somewhere during his college life. The University of Illinois spends about \$500 on books for special work of the students, and as fast as the students finish their work with them, these books are put on shelves in the main reading room. They are new and fresh and are always very popular with the college public. They are not necessarily the best nor the books that the students ought to read in connection with their college work. They are simply some of the best of those published in the last six months. They are used most of the time. They are chosen without reference to any particular department or class, simply additions to aid the students in book selection.

Mr Hanson said that when the Harper Memorial library opened its public reading rooms, the professors made out the lists they thought students ought to



use in connection with their courses. Other books were added for the value of real contact with books—the privilege of browsing. The books disappeared in alarming numbers. From time to time, other efforts in this line have resulted as disastrously. While the open shelf is an ideal, it doesn't always work out. Some professors reported no loss but at the Harper Memorial library, the same thing happens over and over.

Mr Henry quoted President Jessup as saying he thought librarians took the loss of a book or two entirely too seriously. The chemistry laboratory expects to lose a few test tubes and break a few beakers. Librarians take the matter greatly to heart when they should expect to lose books now and then.

Various opinions were given as to what constitutes "the best books." It was summed up "in the best American, English, German, French, Italian and some other foreign literatures in various histories, biographies, travels, things that appeal to the best minds in a college or university." Not a few that technical books of a certain kind should be included.

(The discussion was so full of good ideas that it will be given in full later.)

#### Children's Literature section

Jessie Van Cleve, specialist in children's literature, presided over the section for the discussion of children's books, on Thursday afternoon.

Comment as to the content, illustration and value of 28 of the new books was the basis of the program. A list of these was given.<sup>1</sup>

Following the book talk, a few of the 13 points for children's reading given by Anne Carroll Moore in the "Three Owls" were discussed. That a thorough mastery of the mechanics of reading is necessary brought the idea that children enjoy being able to read to themselves; it is like learning the rules of the game, half the pleasure comes from the learning, conquering the puzzle. This they can do when they are in the second and third grades. The question is when do

they stop learning. It was suggested that a study of readers and primers might be interestingly done by librarians.

Another question much discussed is whether or not children should read for credit. Credit for reading a book is much like offering a nickel to look at a sunset; the pleasure from the thing itself should be the reward. Books should be chosen for their positive value. The appreciation of good form is an active factor in getting books read.

In selecting books, the points to be considered are: what kind of a book is it; who wrote it; who is the publisher; what age will read the book (which is one of the hardest points to decide); but the biggest question of all is, is it an honest book. That does not mean true, but is it an honest effort and has it been done with skill and charm, which is after all, literary style.

Miss Van Cleve was persuaded to tell a story which charmed her audience of grown-ups as much as it does the children who hear her.

#### Thursday evening session

Introduced by Miss Skogh as the apostle of adult education, Jesse Lee Bennett, of Arnold, Maryland, gave an address on *The Modern world and its outstanding characteristics* (see page 523), which was the feature of the evening session and gave much pleasure to his audience.

Before the lecture Miss Gowey, accompanied by Miss Scholl at the piano, delighted the audience with her lovely soprano voice, in a group of songs and generously responded to an encore.

#### Friday morning session

The general session on Friday morning was taken up with the discussion of matters of interest to everybody engaged in the service. The first paper was "Diversified librarianship: its trials and compensations," offered by Lila L. Stonemetz, librarian of the Fairfield public library, who proceeded to speak of a "little library where one person does everything except act as janitor." She admitted that there are certainly trials, that there are, also, some compensations. One of the best things is the friendly contact with peo-

<sup>1</sup> See p. 581.

ple who call one by his first name. The patrons are not strangers who have to be identified by cards because their librarian knows them, their tastes and conditions in life. Each is interesting from a personal standpoint and sidelight opinions, sometimes unexpected, are exhilarating. Miss Stonemetz gave some particular instances as follows:

A Civil War veteran who reads mostly history, biography and a little travel, astonished me one day by asking for the *Private life of Helen of Troy*. I gave him the book with an inward giggle. When he returned it he said seriously:

"You know I think her husband was a remarkable man, a *remarkable* man to put up with her, and she never showed any signs of remorse."

Now my Civil War veteran is himself a remarkable man, a *remarkable* man, Past 80, head erect, still singing in one of the church choirs and keeping abreast of the times. He frequently asks for good books before they appear in the *Booklist*.

There is also the boy who earns his living, working for his father in that most prosaic of places, a grocer's store; but who spends his spare time tramping about and sketching. He is very shy and so frail physically that I am in constant wonder at his surviving the seasons. I have never seen anyone more appreciative of beauty in every form. He has spent hours in the library looking for a single word with exactly a certain shade of meaning and no substitute will do. Suppose the little book which he is writing and illustrating is never published. He is the richer for having tried and I am certainly no poorer for having gained his confidence.

The pretty young matron who loves poetry, the doctor next door who is addicted to historical novels but who always leaves the choice to me, the many who come seeking recreation, the gratifying few who really read, and the members of my board; these are my friends, usually amiable and not too exacting.

Of course there are other and less happy kinds of contacts, but I shall spare you the details. It is sufficient to say that the librarian is not infrequently tempted to join the prophet under a juniper tree. They would have so much in common.

One learns to step softly, softly on broad and neutral ground, bordering upon other people's religious convictions; and as for tact, it becomes a positive vice.

Mr Robinson has credited Tristram with this little sarcasm regarding King Mark. "Honor from him? If he found Honor walking here in Cornwall, he would send men to name it, and would arrest it as a trespasser." I wonder if librarians ever find Truth walking, and, in the name of Diplomacy, arrest it as a trespasser.

Now in the small, small library, the librarian is her own cataloger. I have cataloged all of my library, with my own two forefingers, and—"Publish it not in the streets of Ascalon"—I furnished the typewriter with which it was done. And as this is work which requires space and solitude; space for the tools which must be within reach, solitude to enable one to concentrate upon the work in hand; very obviously it must be done when the library is closed.

One young man remarked to me, "You are doing a lot of thankless work down here." To which I replied, "Think of the experience I am having." And aside from the convenience of a card catalog, truly when I look at those trays of orderly cards I think I know how the artist feels who has hung his first picture, or the musician who has made a successful debut before a critical audience, or the author who has published his first book. And yet I should hate to do cataloging and nothing else. There is spice in variety. There are other advantages also. When one grows tired of any one task one can turn to another with a perfectly clear conscience, for no matter what the work in hand may be there are always half a dozen other things just

shrieking for attention. One can always mend books.

Mending books! The dishwashing, stocking-darning end of library house-keeping! What possible compensation can there be in that? Remember that the mender also looks after the shelving of the books, and perhaps it is just a matter of pride to see the volumes neatly mended and recased and marching in self-respecting upright rows; not frayed and lop-sided with ragged, loose leaves protruding.

There is the book agent, a trial that may not be peculiar to the one-man library, but where there are assistants it seems to me that the librarian can occasionally be "out," while if you are the entire staff you are obviously "in" and legitimate prey. Even these experiences are not always devoid of joy.

Not long ago, a well-dressed, middle-aged person spent some time trying to sell me a set of children's books. Being unsuccessful she went out and canvassed the town. After a few days she returned to the library, having sold only one set of her wares. She reported that everywhere she went the mothers said, "But our children get such lovely books at the library we do not need to buy many." That was my reward.

This brings me to one of the most satisfying phases of small library work, that with the children. The children who come to my library have perfectly free access to the juvenile shelves. They may take down book after book in making a selection and it is true that I find fewer children's books out of place than I find on the adult shelves.

I am jealous for the children's collection. Practically every book hand-picked and bearing the stamp of authority and just as many beautiful, illustrated editions as we can afford. And how the children love the pictures! I have tried placing two copies of Robinson Crusoe or King Arthur side by side; one in a dull, unadorned edition and the other, big, beautiful and bright with illustrations; and then watched with interest how unflinchingly

the eager little searcher selects the copy with the pictures. He may not know that this book or that is illustrated by any one of the many artists who do such work, and if he knew he would not remember; but assuredly he will carry thru life, with the memory of the story, the association of the picture.

And is it too much for me to hope that in future years these children may have with the memory of the crowded little library on First street, and the beautiful books, just a little thot of me? I wonder.

And those of high-school age! I am happy when every chair is occupied by a busy student, hard at work on a "semester theme." I want them all to be able to say, "She was neither too busy nor too tired to help us find our references."

After all, are not the trials of diversified librarianship mere surface irritations like prickly heat, but the compensations much more than skin deep—touching the heart?

The responsibilities and opportunities of the children's library, by Mildred Bush of Peoria, followed. (This paper will be published later)

"A profession to grow in" was the characteristic measure given library service by Miss Effie Lansden, librarian of Cairo public library. She pointed out the equipment necessary for the duties, the obligations of the position and the joy of the service for young librarians willing to grow.

The treat of the morning and one of most enjoyable addresses of the meeting was given by Mr C. B. Roden, librarian, Chicago public library, and president of the A. L. A. He reviewed the high spots of the tour of the librarians in Europe last summer and gave a most interesting account of the library conference of the British Library Association at Edinburgh in September. This was a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the association attended by many foreign delegates of which Mr Roden was one, representing the American Library Association.

*Friday afternoon session**Trustees section*

About 40 trustees and librarians attended the meeting of the Trustees section over which Wm. Jannenga of Cicero presided.

In his opening remarks, he said that as all were interested in the advancement of libraries in the state they were present to join hands in the library movement which would benefit all. There should be help for those districts without library service as well as those better off. He made a strong plea for membership of trustees in some organization which would help the whole library movement, for there must be union to get strength, and trustees must coöperate for needed legislation. In the I. L. A. is the place to unite to help the libraries in one's own state and it is the place for the general discussion of library problems. The A. L. A. gives one a broader outlook on library service and its programs hold much of interest and benefit for the trustee.

"That library tax bill" was the subject of the discussion led by M. F. Gallagher, trustee of the Evanston public library, and member of the legislative committee. He said that the governor's veto had amazed everyone, for both the senate and the house had passed the bill without a dissenting vote and the veto was an undreamed of action.<sup>1</sup> The bill did not call for a mandatory tax, but gave the people of a community the right to vote their own tax. However, it must only serve to renew courage, enthusiasm and determination for the bill. He emphasized particularly the responsibility of trustees to see that their libraries are properly financed, for that is the direct responsibility of the trustees, not the librarian, and they should assume their primary responsibility.

After some discussion on the ways to further the passage of the bill, a vote of thanks was given to the committee for their work during the past year. It was voted also, upon motion of Mr Garnett of Highland Park, that

the Trustees' section recommend to the incoming executive board of the I. L. A. that the same legislative committee be appointed for the coming year.

It was quite refreshing to hear Mr Henley, in a bright, witty fashion but which showed a natural and justifiable pride, tell the story of the Mattoon library of which he is trustee. Having done so he turned to the subject of "library finance" and made a real contribution to the program. He said in part:

*Library finances*

The funds available, derived from direct taxes are, as you know, limited by statute alike in most localities, but we must necessarily take due care annually to see that our budget is properly prepared and certified to the city council to be embodied in its appropriation ordinance and its tax levy ordinance, and we have also always found it most effectual personally to see that the city clerk properly certifies such tax levy ordinance to the county clerk, that the tax rate for the library fund may be properly calculated and extended. It should also be made the duty of some particular member of the library board annually to see that each of these steps is properly and duly taken; if any one of these important duties is delegated to even the most competent, painstaking substitute or any other official, something may be overlooked and the library fund consequently suffer.

To our public tax fund, our local library, as should all others, adds considerable from new book rentals, fines from overdue books, rentals from club rooms, sale of paper and waste, together with interest and earnings on all of these funds.

We feel that the real business qualifications of a board of library trustees and the success and financial prosperity of any public library is better shown by the way these funds are handled and cared for than in the way they are secured.

It seems to be a well established rule of law that no municipality or public institution supported by general taxa-

<sup>1</sup> See p. 547.



tion shall be allowed to accumulate a reserve or sinking fund for use, even in emergency; that only such annual taxes shall be levied or collected as may be actually needed to defray the necessary running expenses from day to day. We had been fortunate enough, however, to raise and lay aside annually small amounts from sources other than taxes, such as those before indicated, so that during the world's war we invested a substantial sum in liberty bonds and without any opposition from patrons. These bonds we later sold and invested most of the proceeds in very attractive building and loan stock in local associations which will be allowed to lie as long-time investments at six per cent compound interest and which in due time will double the original capital and thus prepare us for any emergency which might arise, such as fire, tornado, or other calamities. We may by this conduct be violating the strict letter of the law, but we know that it is good business policy, and feeling that we are within the spirit of the law, we propose to pursue this course until such objections arise that we cannot continue it.

The plain conditions and clear meaning of our Library act, *Illinois Revised Statute, Chapter 81, Section 5*, reads:

The directors shall immediately after appointment meet and organize by the election of one of their number president, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. They shall make and adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for their own guidance and for the government of the library and reading room as may be expedient, not inconsistent with this Act. *THEY SHALL HAVE* the exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the Library fund . . . . . All moneys received for such library shall be deposited in the treasury of said City to the credit of the library fund, and shall be kept separate and apart from other moneys of such city, and drawn upon by the proper officers of said library, upon the properly authenticated vouchers of the library board.

After the legislature amended the statute regarding libraries, "So that the board of directors or trustees shall have the exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the library fund, etc.," . . .

we promptly amended our by-laws and revolutionized our old, cumbersome, red-tape method of handling and paying out the funds, so as to keep within the clear intent and meaning of the amended statute.

The major part of our library fund, as with all of yours, reaches our city treasurer in irregular installments generally between April 1 and August 1. These are promptly deposited by him to the credit of the library fund in the bank designated by the library board and this deposit is also credited upon a duplicate pass book of which the library treasurer has exclusive control. The city treasurer monthly calls upon the library treasurer and takes both pass books to the bank to be balanced. The library treasurer's duplicate book is returned to him with the paid vouchers, which have been presented to the bank for payment; thus we readily see that the library fund agrees with the city treasurer's account and no error can arise.

We can all readily realize the unbusinesslike conduct in allowing this large library fund to lie in the bank inactive for many months. It is also most difficult to find safe, short-time investments, giving substantial returns for funds of this character. For these reasons in our extremity and in self-defense we invoke the old, well-known maxim that "Necessity is the mother of invention." Our invention, however is not patented, not even "Patent applied for." We now, therefore in confidence, give you the fruits of our labors.

Our banks, following the well established rules of most successful bankers, politely but firmly refuse to allow us any interest whatever on monthly balances, but in the same language and tone of voice, intimated that we really should pay them something for keeping our funds securely locked up in their fireproof vaults, or loaned out for themselves at lawful rates of interest.

Having experienced many years of pleasant and profitable dealings with our responsible local building and loan

associations, who are generally ready and willing to pay fair rates of interest on demand funds, which they can promptly re-invest in first mortgage loans, we found that we would have no difficulty in placing our idle funds with these associations at six per cent interest. We thus keep all our money fully and profitably invested, calling upon the building and loan associations monthly for the payment of only such an amount as is actually needed to pay our monthly bills; thus being able annually to make a substantial sum as unlooked for profits.

Our bills are all audited and paid monthly by voucher signed by the president of the board and countersigned by the clerk and treasurer. Complete check stubs are kept by our librarian, who writes these vouchers and these must all balance with the report of our city treasurer and with the books of our library treasurer, who keeps a complete ledger account of all moneys. From this course of conduct you can readily see that no discrepancies can occur in our books, the librarian's voucher stubs must agree with the treasurer's books, while his account must balance with both the bank and with the city treasurer.

In conclusion, may we summarize by saying that the best handling of library finances is done in exactly the same way as the successful businessman deals with any other funds. Use your own best personal efforts and services to see that every possible source of revenue is properly searched and combed for funds; that these funds are safely and judiciously preserved and invested so as to bring in other returns after using the amount needed for the proper maintenance of your library.

C. E. Stewart of Bloomington told most interestingly of the remodeling of the Withers library building of his city at a cost of \$60,000 with a resulting library building adequate to the needs of the service. It is architecturally satisfactory, well arranged as to light and ventilation, furnished with taste, and offering to the city a building of which it may be proud and to

the library service convenient and comfortable quarters in which to accomplish its splendid work.

Porter Paddock, trustee of the Lincoln library, Springfield, in his paper on the "Library as a business asset to the community," set forth the advantages which such an educational institution means for an intelligent law-abiding citizenship.

Mr Paddock maintained that in all relations of life, but particularly in those that have an ennobling influence and lead to what is called culture, the library has a share. Law, liberty, business, education, social relations, remedial and others—in all the human relations, the library has an important place. Any agency which helps to make a more moral citizenship, a more intelligent citizenship and a more law-abiding citizenship is a tremendous business asset to any community, and all these the public library does.

#### Lending section

The Lending section was extremely interesting as a meeting is sure to be whose program is furnished by enthusiastic, intelligent, highly-trained young persons in the midst of things. That's how it was on Friday afternoon.

Elsie McKay, librarian of the Oak Park public library, presided and kept the meeting moving from first to last.

The problem of the adolescent reader was presented by Miss Watson of Evanston (see p. 575).

Miss Babcock of the Chicago public library discussed "The Loan librarian's reading—its purpose and results." Knowledge of books and belief in their power is necessary. One can not give nor communicate an interest that is not felt. The catholicity of interest gives a fund of general information necessary to assist intelligently. The reading world is so large that there should be a course mapped out that will take into consideration personal equipment, needs and desires.

Professional reading comes first and in this comes first, the library periodicals, *LIBRARIES* and *Library Journal*. These are sources of new ideas, things

being done elsewhere, new tools and methods of the general trend of library thot. Books by eminent persons in the profession should also be read. Many of the A. L. A. *Reading with a Purpose* courses are extremely valuable in giving knowledge of books. A course in itself gives a general survey of its subject. Recreational reading, while it should meet the individual taste, should be of things that will give an intellectual and emotional satisfaction. All this reading will make easy understanding of the library's patrons and their needs.

Miss Corcoran of the Lincoln library, Springfield, discussed some phases of city library extension. In an ordinary city library, the extension department supervises work thru branches, stations and schools, factories and hospitals. In the larger branches, a survey of the community should be made to find suitable locations for sub-branches of various kinds. In the question of housing, with the relations between the branches and the main library, work with the schools, etc., conditions are so varied that little more can be done than expose school children to well selected books and lead them to the use of the public library. Extension work thru manufacturing and industrial plants is of value.

"Surveying the community for its book needs" told the various lines of endeavor that Vilda P. Beem of Ottawa found useful. The survey covered a month and only 20 per cent of the registered borrowers used the library that month. The largest number were students required to read. Home-makers came next, tho of the latter the largest number was reading light fiction. Those "employed" made a better showing than the professional men and women. The survey also showed the books and magazines which circulated for the month, with a record showing those which were used the most. A map of the city, under construction, will show those portions or sections of the city which are making least use of libraries, which the most, and why. Miss Beem illustrated

her topic by reviewing surveys made in other libraries, noting the good and weak points in each.

In discussing Newspaper publicity, Anne L. Whitmack of Wilmette gave an interesting discussion of advertising. The fundamental reason for library publicity is the value of good books in making life more interesting and dynamic. Other reasons are to promote attendance, to encourage good will, to call attention to specific books, to direct reading along certain channels, and to interest certain groups in what the library has to give. Her warning was, "Never lead the people to expect something that can not be supplied. Be sure of the ground, then advertise."

"Book enthusiasms" called for five-minute talks from selected speakers. These papers were all interesting but few of the speakers kept to the five-minute limit. Mary Bigelow, Rockford public library, took Van Loon's *America*. The conclusion summed up might be: "One does not read 'America' for information but for perspective and for the new angles the author has found in his wide historical studies, and for the entertaining way he presents his material."

Miss Vosper's choice was Jean-Aubry's *Life and letters of Joseph Conrad*. She said in substance: "While he might easily have spoken in enthusiastic terms which would have been understood and seconded by many of Conrad's admirers, he has wisely given a simple, well written narrative of facts."

Elizabeth M. Southward of Maywood took *The Golden complex* by Lee Wilson Dodd which she pronounced "a delightful, gay and witty book of essays." The "golden" complex is the inferiority complex and the author defends it by calling upon people to rescue it from threatened annihilation by the behaviorists, as it is one of the moving forces of the world.

*The Road to the temple*, by Susan Glaspell, was reviewed by Bella Steuernagel of Belleville. Miss Steuernagel dealt very leniently with the life of a

dreamer who left the practical affairs of life to be cared for by his faithful wife who found her joy in following with her husband the "road to the temple" in his pilgrimage for truth and beauty, with Greece, the reward, at the end.

Mother India, by Katherine Mayo, was reviewed by Leota Price of Paris.

There was one bit of disappointment in that the program listed that perennial favorite, Miss Nellie E. Parham of the Withers public library, as last on the program. As Miss Parham had unexpectedly to return to Bloomington later in the afternoon, her inimitable address "How I read a serious book" came first so that many who had counted on their annual treat of wit and wisdom from Miss Parham were much disappointed.

Miss Parham's closing sentences were:

When I read for joy, for pure ecstatic joy, I have more fun selecting the book than in any other way. I pick out a large book, a very thick book, one I don't know much about—that isn't hard at all. I must have all the time I want to read it. If I am a whole year reading it, that is nobody's business but mine. I get so absorbed that I am not living in this world at all. When I read the *Life of Shakespeare*, I read everything that I could find about the Elizabethan period. I didn't live in Bloomington at all. . . .

If you will get a book by someone that writes well, a great big book and a great big subject, and then if you will read everything about it, you will have a perfect education—that is why I am so well educated.

#### *Friday evening session*

The conference dinner Friday evening was a joyous occasion. Music was furnished by the High-school orchestra. The address of the evening, after a most delightful dinner, was given by Carl Van Doren of New York City, a native Illinoisan, for some time connected with the University of Illinois before he went to New York.

Mr Van Doren, in a whimsical fashion, discussed "What makes a book good. The red thread running thru the address emphasized his belief that censorship is a baneful thing and does nobody any good. Books are mirrors

in which every reader sees himself, and he likes or dislikes it accordingly.

Thruout the dinner the guests were entertained by the Joliet Township High-School orchestra. Having Joliet hosts and hostesses preside at each table of 10 or 12 guests was a thotful and hospitable arrangement which all enjoyed.

A Hallowe'en party following the dinner was one of the delightful social features of the conference.

#### *Saturday morning session*

On Saturday morning, following the announcements and reading of telegrams of greeting to the association from L. L. Emmerson, secretary of state and state librarian, and from Mary B. Day of the National Safety Council, Mary J. Booth presented a most valuable paper on "New, free and inexpensive geographic material." This may be obtained in pamphlet form from Miss Booth at Eastern Illinois Normal College, Charleston, Ill. Earl Browning, librarian, Public library, Peoria, followed with a paper on Our bound servants. This was an outline of good binding principles.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs Lucy Wilson Errett, Kewanee; first vice-president, Edward A. Henry, Chicago; second vice-president, Bella Steuernagel, Belleville; secretary, Alice Williams, Moline; treasurer, Vilda Beem, Ottawa.

The report of the Resolutions committee, Anna Hoover, chairman, mentioned the hospitality of the city of Joliet, the courtesy of the Public library and its staff, the chamber of commerce, the orchestra, the association officers and those on the program as deserving of thanks and appreciation. The report was adopted.

Telegrams of greeting and sympathy were sent to Edward T. Tweedell and Dr C. W. Andrews who were reported to be ill.

A vote of thanks was given to E. P. Dutton and Co. for their courtesy in sending to the meeting Dhan Gopal Mukerji whose inspiring address closed the session. It is impossible to



present in printed words, the inspiration that Mr Mukerji gave his audience in his 40-minutes talk on the truth about Kipling's India. It was a plea for patience, courage, kindness and brotherliness. Mr. Mukerji spoke before many library associations in the past few months.

For those who could stay later than Saturday noon, a drive thru the city and visits to the High-School and Junior College libraries were arranged.

Exhibits of special libraries, arranged under the direction of O. E. Norman, librarian of the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Co., Chicago, and of new, free and inexpensive geographic material by Miss Booth, shown in connection with her talk, were of interest.

Minutes of regret were recorded on the death of Mrs J. P. Weber, James W. Shaw, Harriet Dolbee and Mae E. Murray.

Representatives of Gaylord Bros., C. V. Ritter, Democratic Printing Co., New Method Bindery, Keystone View Co., Library Bureau, World Book, Macmillan, Bradley, Book of Knowledge and Ginn & Co. were present with exhibits from their firms. A. L. A. and Library Extension Division also had exhibits. Following the address by Dhan Gopal Mukerji, the representative of E. P. Dutton & Co. had his books on display, which Mr Mukerji autographed for those who bought them.

With a registration of 278, the largest since the meeting in Chicago in 1922, the attendance was most gratifying. Perfect weather, almost like summer, the pleasant assembly rooms in the library for the meetings, and the many delightful social features added much to the enjoyment of all who were present. The hospitable librarians, assistants and trustees had arranged everything for the comfort and entertainment of their guests, even to the serenade by the splendid High-school band which entertained the convention at the close of the Friday morning session.

LUCY WILSON ERRETT  
Secretary

### Library Meetings

**Chicago**—The Chicago library club held a dinner meeting, November 17, in honor of Carl B. Roden, librarian of the Chicago public library and president of the American Library Association. The meeting was considerably enlivened by the joyous comments and spirit of the president of the club, Dr Theodore W. Koch, librarian of the Northwestern University library.

Aside from an address by Leslie E. Bliss, librarian of the Huntington library, San Marino, Calif., who told of some of the treasures in that library, all the speeches paid tribute to Mr Roden. They included "Mr Roden as a neighbor" by J. Christian Bay, acting librarian of The John Crerar library; "Mr Roden abroad" by George B. Utley, librarian of The Newberry library; "Mr Roden in Denmark" by Dr Henius, trustee of Chicago public library; "Mr Roden as president of the A. L. A." by Mr Milam, secretary of the A. L. A.; and "Mr Roden in Chicago" by Mr Hanson of the University of Chicago.

Between speeches, Dr Koch read letters and telegrams from prominent librarians thruout the country, characterizing Mr Roden as "an excellent librarian," "one of the best presidents of the A. L. A." and as "a satisfactory representative of the A. L. A. at the Edinburgh conference." Messages wishing Mr Roden many more years of service amused the guest of honor so when he was called upon to speak, he said that he would show that this was not an obituary.

Contrasted with the preceding speeches, Mr Roden's address was particularly serious. Speaking in his capacity as president of the American Library Association, Mr Roden made a plea to the membership for more interest in and more support of those projects being sponsored by Headquarters. Drawing upon his observations in Europe, he compared European librarianship, which, tho effective is naturally grounded upon the past, and American librarianship, which,

without the traditions, history and treasures of Europe, has not been handicapped by the past and has, therefore, served the present and had time and leisure and enterprise to look into the future. The problem now confronting American librarianship is whether it will take advantage of the opportunity so vast that it comprehends more generations than ours, or let that opportunity go by for some future generation to handle.

Mr Roden named three things which the A. L. A. has the opportunity to do:

1) To attempt to prevail upon those in authority in localities having no library contacts, that such contacts are desirable and must be provided.

2) To provide the libraries themselves with an apparatus by which they can provide those adults coming from college with a means of continuing that education which is to be a life process.

3) To equip the librarians themselves with proper training, methods, development, machinery and intellectual vision to meet the opportunities which in this generation, and in increasing number in the next generation, will confront them.

The only people who do not comprehend those principles involved in the program of development adopted by A. L. A. are the members of the association itself. "It is not a matter of opposition but of deadly tolerance. The answer must be in a wider interest in ourselves, an attitude of larger expansiveness towards generations to come, release from the parochialism which seems to characterize the members individually." So far as the membership is concerned, it seems, A. L. A. Headquarters would be as well off if it were part of the Carnegie Corporation of New York because the latter is more interested in its work, and its projects, than the association itself.

If these projects are to be continued there must be money, and the Carnegie Corporation, which has carried them for several years, says the time

is coming when the Association must be prepared to carry them on. It has promised \$1,000,000 if the Association can raise another million. Librarians will not be asked for money nor to help raise it, but they will be asked for an attitude of at least benevolence, an attitude which shows a little interest in this program, or a flat challenge to the Association whether it wants to continue these things or go back to when the secretary was only the collector of dues. The time is coming when the A. L. A. either has to fish or cut bait.

Mr Roden concluded by saying that altho no momentous decision was before the Association, the A. L. A. has arrived at the crossroads where it should choose its path either for the future with the endless prospect before it or turn back on its tracks and forget that it has any duty to posterity.

DOROTHY NELSON

The speaker at a meeting of the Illinois chapter of the Special Libraries association, on October 11, was Dr T. W. Koch of the Northwestern University library. His address was a resumé of library matters of interest which he observed in a trip to Europe in the summer.

The national president of the S. L. A., Francis E. Cady of Cleveland, was present and in addressing the association described the field for a special libraries organization and its program of activities. He announced that a clearing house of information would be established with permanent headquarters conducted by an executive secretary. This information center will make possible greater coöperation among special librarians. Members of the association in each city are urged to enable the national body to carry out this and other aims of greater service.

Cincinnati—The Special Libraries association of Cincinnati, November 19, 1927, made a visit to the home of Mr and Mrs Charles P. Taft accompanied by Miss Elizabeth Kellogg, librarian at the Art museum, who gave a talk

on art and artists. This added greatly to the pleasure of looking at the art treasures and pictures of the Taft collection.

Dinner and a business meeting followed at the Cincinnati Catholic Women's club. The next meeting, January, will be at the library of the General hospital.

E. GERTRUDE AVEY  
Secretary

Iowa—The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Iowa library association was held in Des Moines, October 18-20. The weather was ideal and the attendance reached 214. Johnson Brigham, president, presided thruout the meeting and greatly added to its enjoyment.

On Tuesday afternoon following the addresses of welcome by the Mayor and Mrs Weitz, representing the Des Moines library club, and a response by Mary A. Egan, second vice-president, Mary K. Reely from the Wisconsin library school, spoke on the Books of the year. This was followed by a brief but animated discussion which could not be prolonged because of the crowded condition of the program but which was continued by many after the meeting was adjourned.

The concluding number of the afternoon program was an address on The Truth about Kipling's India, by Dhan Gopal Mukerji. Mr Mukerji's earnestness, use of language in word painting and humor made the address very enjoyable to all. Mr Mukerji feels that the East and West each has something to give the other, that the restlessness and overactivity of this age in the West could well give time to meditation with increase of spirituality which would make life more what it is intended to be. And the East could well receive from the West lessons in child welfare, sanitation, hospital work and many of the ameliorative activities.

The Tuesday evening meeting included the president's address on The Librarian's ever-present problem—fiction in which the present day fiction

received some hard knocks and the older fiction was commended. (See LIBRARIES, 465-471.)

Alice S. Tyler, former secretary of the Iowa library commission, followed Mr Brigham in an address on Goals in library development. Miss Tyler referred to Dr Kilpatrick's book, Education for a changing civilization, quoting the goals presented by the author for the attainment of education and offering some for the consideration of librarians.

At the close of the address, Charles H. Brown presented to Mr Brigham, in behalf of the Executive board of the association, a beautifully bound copy of Mr Brigham's new book just out, The Sinclairs of Old Fort Des Moines.

The Des Moines library club was hostess for a social hour following.

On Wednesday morning, Jessie Gay Van Cleve, children's specialist of the American Library Association, gave a talk on Betwixt and between in children's books at the request of the children's librarians for help in intermediate reading. Miss Van Cleve stressed the use of older books naming, however, a number of the more recent ones, but impressing on the audience that they must be fitted to the reader, that any list could not be taken as a general list to be handed out promiscuously.

A playlet, Discords, written by Charles H. Brown of the State College library at Ames, was presented by Mr Brown and members of his staff following the address. This play was written for presentation before Parent-Teacher associations to emphasize the need of teaching children to read rapidly and that for this purpose books should be provided in the home.

Round-tables completed the morning program. At noon a luncheon was held for all interested in children's library work and was attended by about 40, including trustees and librarians as well as children's librarians.

In the afternoon, the librarians were guests of the Des Moines woman's club at an open meeting at which

Judge Marcus A. Kavanagh of Chicago, gave an address on When justice fails. A visit to the Hertzberg Bindery with tea at the bindery completed the afternoon.

On Wednesday evening, a dinner had been planned in honor of J. N. Darling (*Ding*), Iowa's world-known cartoonist, but at the last moment, much to the regret of everyone, Mr Darling was sent to the hospital by his physician. His place on the program was taken by Harvey Ingham, editor of the *Des Moines Register*, who has just returned from the trip to Europe provided for a group of editors by the Carnegie Corporation for International Peace. Mr Ingham spoke of the impressions of his trip and conditions in Europe.

This was followed by talks by Miss Tyler, Mr Spaulding, librarian elect of the Des Moines public library, Mr Dickerson of the A. L. A., Miss Van Cleve and others. About 250 were in attendance at the dinner.

"County libraries" was the principal theme of the morning meeting on Thursday, Leora J. Lewis, field secretary of South Dakota library commission, being the principal speaker. She was followed by Mrs Vivian Klemme-Ellis, librarian of the Iowa Falls public library, thru whom county library service had been brought about during the year in Hardin county. A very short discussion followed these talks and the formal program of the meeting was closed by a short talk on "Publicity" by Carlton Laird of the department of journalism of Drake University.

At the business meeting on Thursday morning, reports were received from the Book Wagon committee, Committee on coöperative buying, Committee on legislation and the Resolution committee. By the latter, both the book wagon and the coöperative buying plan were endorsed by the association, and a resolution further urging the coming of the American Library Association to Des Moines was passed.

The officers elected for the coming year are: President, Mary A. Egan,

librarian, Clinton public library; first vice-president, Mrs Cora Poor Millard, Burlington public library; second vice-president, May B. Ditch, Ottumwa public library; treasurer, Mary B. Lee, Oskaloosa public library. The secretary and registrar hold over.

Mr Brigham was made permanent honorary president of the association amid much enthusiasm.

A luncheon and business meeting of the Iowa Summer Library School society was held and in the afternoon the librarians rode about the city, visited Des Moines libraries and had tea at the Des Moines public library.

JULIA A. ROBINSON  
Executive-secretary

**Kansas**—The Kansas library association met at Lawrence, the home of the University of Kansas, October 25-27.

At the opening session, Dean Raymond A. Schwegler, School of education, K. U., gave an address, "The modern world and its books". Dean Schwegler said the psychological influence of the printed page cannot be overestimated, since it becomes a sort of synonym for the printed truth. He stressed the reading of English literature, since by sharing ideas, ideals and hopes, we obtain a better understanding of each other, internationally, thereby making war impossible between English speaking peoples. He closed his message with the statement, "the printed page is the most dynamic influence in the modern world."

Mrs Anna Soule Prentiss, long a tireless worker for the welfare of Kansas, favored the librarians with a bit of personal experience in helping to organize the first circulating library in Kansas. It was in 1859, and known as the Coal Creek library association; it is still at work with 2,000 v. and is located at Vinland, a few miles out of Lawrence.

The visitors were made very happy to have a charter member and former president of the K.L.A., Carrie M. Watson, librarian emerita of Kansas University, preside over the morning session on Wednesday. Miss Watson



paid a loving tribute to the librarians who have given long and faithful service to the upbuilding of public libraries in Kansas, some of whom are still in service.

In her presidential address, Odella Nation, librarian, K.S.T.C., Pittsburgh, gave some splendid ideas for some future plans of the K.L.A. She suggested that the president be elected to serve a two-year term; that would give her time to carry out her policies, or those endorsed by the association at the time she is elected to the office. She realized during her term as president the very great need of library extension in Kansas, and considered the most important work for the K.L.A. for the next two years the securing of a library organizer for the state.

Ruth Hammond, Public library, Wichita, was enthusiastic in her praise of the A.L.A. meeting in Toronto, and gave a vivid portrayal of its events and surroundings.

"The man of few books" was the subject of a thot provoking address by Chancellor E. H. Lindley of K.U. He compared the effect of modern life to a sort of shell shock condition, the remedy for which is a few good books; he reminded his hearers that many of the really great men and women had few books but read them well. He suggested some "best books" to read, last but not least, the King James version of the Bible.

Helen F. Ingersoll, head of branch libraries, Public library, Denver, gave two addresses, Library extension and Library work with children. Miss Ingersoll gave some very helpful ideas for both problems. She strongly recommends county libraries. She suggested also that books should be as important to child life as three meals a day, and should be selected as carefully. She recommended a number of books and distributed some valuable lists of children's books.

During the annual banquet on Wednesday night, Helen Rhoda Hoopes, assistant professor of English, K.U., entertained the audience with readings selected from an "Anthology of contem-

porary Kansas poets" which she has recently compiled. All present felt a justifiable pride in these poetical inspirations of Kansans.

Margaret Lynn, professor of English literature, K.U., and author of *The land of promise* and other well known novels, the scenes of which are from Kansas, made an enlightening address on Provincial American literature. She stressed the need of local literature to preserve the history which in a comparatively short time becomes a work of reference for that particular locality. There are many neglected portions of our country which are changing rapidly, whose stories have not been recorded.

Franklin Watts of the Lawrence Book Nook prepared a paper written from a bookseller's point of view. Among other interesting facts, he gave the encouraging information that out of the five best sellers this autumn, four are non-fiction, thereby intimating that public taste is improving.

The round-tables were in session Thursday morning, with Winifred Schott, Public library, Wichita, presiding over Children's libraries; Ida M. Day, High school, Hutchinson, in charge of College and High School libraries; Mrs Bertha McMann, Public library, Kansas City, Kansas, conducting Public libraries; Mrs A. C. Mitchell, Lawrence, in charge of Trustees.

The officers elected for the coming year are: President, Mrs Elsie H. Pine, of K.S.T.C. of Emporia; vice-president, Lillian J. Constant, Public library, Lawrence; secretary, Nora Daniel, Public library, Emporia; treasurer, Katherine Terrill, Public library, Wichita.

The *Kansas Library Bulletin*, which was something of an experiment this, its first year, has proven such a success, under the management of F. B. Streeter, librarian of K.S.T.C., Hays, that it was decided to continue the publication, and resolutions expressing thanks were tendered Mr Streeter and his co-workers of the college at Hays.

One of the many interesting features of the entertainment planned for the visitors was a visit to Haskell Indian Institute, where the librarians were cordially received by the superintendent and faculty.

As a climax to the entire series of meetings, the members of the association were guests of the University and the Public libraries at a concert by Sousa's Band, which was thoroly enjoyed by the visitors.

Earl N. Manchester, director of libraries, K.U. and Lillian J. Constant, librarian of the Public library, and their assistants, deserve a great deal of praise for the comfort, pleasure and inspiration provided for the visiting librarians. The twenty-sixth meeting of the K.L.A. is one long to be remembered.

H. LUCY NICHOLS,  
Secretary.

**Massachusetts**—The Western Massachusetts library club held its meeting on October 20, 1927 at Dalton, Massachusetts. More than 75 were present. At the roll call, each one present gave the name and the library represented. There were a number of trustees attending.

Mr Huntting gave a brief report of the meeting at Nantucket, and of the committee to consider the booklists suggested by Mr Huntting. It was decided that it was not feasible to have the lists printed at present.

Miss E. Kathleen Jones spoke of the Boston *Booklist*. She said not enough good fiction had been published recently to make a list they could recommend, so the list had not been issued for several months.

The speaker of the morning was Dr Frank L. Tolman of the Library Extension work of New York, who gave a very practical talk on "Increased opportunities in library service." He said that the function of the library in giving adults a chance to continue their education is as important as giving boys and girls four years of high school, but unfortunately, the funds and equipment are not in proportion.

The principal criticism against libraries today is that they are not admin-

istered on a business basis. They are not well organized, too expensive for results obtained, too remote and unrelated, have poor or no signs and no advertising. The library must be kept before the people. Libraries should be more uniform, and as an example Dr Tolman mentioned the chain stores, with their unified supervision, standard goods, etc. He quoted from the report of the Library Committee of Great Britain, telling of the large plan they have for putting a unified system of libraries in every county or town, and for the large number that have been built since the war. The United States has no such large plan, but California has a splendid one, in its county libraries and has done much along this line.

Book selection is very vital. Dr Tolman feels that libraries are on the wrong track in buying books they *ought* to have. The ideal way is to have a large group testing books for popularity and appeal—find what people *want*, not what they *ought* to read.

He spoke very briefly on censorship, and said New York had no such problem as Massachusetts, because of the difference in the laws. His warning was "Don't be too narrow."

He closed by saying that the primary problem in library service at present is to build the small libraries into larger and more effective systems. There should be a common machinery for buying and preparing the books, in other words, transferring the ideas of the large city library with its numerous branches, to the communities in the state.

There was a short discussion after which the meeting adjourned for inspection of the Dalton public library, where a large open fire welcomed all. There was a splendid exhibit of new books thru the courtesy of Miss Marjorie Martin, librarian.

At the afternoon session, Mr Huntting introduced the speaker of the afternoon, Mr Walter Pritchard Eaton, of Sheffield and New York, who gave a most delightful talk on the Author's problems. First an author must have an idea worth expressing, then he must

find the right form to express that idea. In discussing style, he contrasted Pater and Mencken, and read selections from each author. The artist, or author, never feels that his problem is one of reproducing real life. His work is his reflection or comment on life, but he must present a picture which does not violate reality. Censors confuse art and reality. Mr Eaton spoke very strongly against censorship; it is against all principles of democracy and tends to the suppression of individuality. No persons or person should have the right to say what others should or should not read. He concluded by reading an article on censorship of the drama which he had written a short time ago.

On motion of Mr Dougherty of Westfield, a vote of thanks to Mr Eaton, to Miss Martin and to those who had contributed to the pleasure of the occasion was passed.

MILDRED L. WHITE  
Secretary

**Missouri**—The Missouri library association held its twenty-seventh annual meeting, October 20-22, at Columbia, a most ideal place for a meeting, having in addition to great natural beauty—the oak trees and maples were blazing with color—the library of the large state university, two junior college libraries, the State Historical Society library, a public library and one of the largest book houses of the Middle-west.

The programs of the general sessions were quite varied. Ruth Overman, supervisor of work with children, St. Louis, reviewed the year's juveniles. Mr Compton gave practical suggestions for newspaper publicity showing how the day's civic news may be linked up with library activities and made the subject of a news story. Economic book buying was discussed by Sula Wagner and the Government documents of most use to the small libraries were displayed and explained by Miss Moody. The Readers advisory service of the St. Louis library was explained in some detail by Miss Doud,

chief of that service, with special emphasis on the "reading-with-a-purpose" courses, after which Dr W. W. Elwang, of the Missouri Store, Columbia, gave a most delightful talk on the joys of reading *without* a purpose.

The value of the public library as a civic institution was the subject of talks by Purd Wright, Kansas City, and E. A. Logan, library trustee, Columbia, at the Kiwanis luncheon which the delegates attended.

Thru the courtesy of E. P. Dutton & Company, Dahn Gopal Mukerji was the speaker for one evening and gave a fascinating talk on Kipling's India. He told of his own boyhood in India, his home life, his education and his training in jungle lore. Mr Kipling, he said, interpreted Indian life as no other English writer has done. In two respects only is his picture incomplete. He had no opportunity to know the home life and the women of the higher castes.

Following a "Book banquet" at which Dr A. E. Bostwick and members of the College faculties reviewed favorite books, the visitors and friends gathered around a huge bonfire on the grounds of Oak Hill hotel, where stunts, stories and good fellowship ended an exceptionally good meeting.

Officers elected were: Jane Morey, Jefferson City, president; Grace Perger, Kansas City public library, vice-president; Mrs Gertrude Drury, St. Louis library school, secretary; William N. Collins, University library, Columbia, treasurer.

**New Jersey**—The special fall meeting of the Library association was held at Princeton on October 22. The association was the guest of Princeton University and a very delightful luncheon was served to the members at Commons. The meetings were held at McCosh hall. George M. La Monte, president of the New Jersey library association, presided.

In the absence of Dr John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton University, Mrs Frances F. Cleveland Preston, president of the Board of

Trustees of the Princeton public library, opened the meeting and welcomed the association to the town and University. Later in the morning Dr Hibben spoke, comparing libraries and librarians in the early days with those of the present.

The meeting was largely devoted to the subject of International relations.

Margaret Buttenheim of Madison, chairman of the Committee of International relations of the New Jersey federation of Women's clubs, spoke on Aids to International understanding. This talk was based on a list of books issued under the auspices of Miss Buttenheim's committee. It was compiled by several New Jersey libraries and checked by a number of organizations and individuals interested in the subject, and approved by the committee on International relations of the New Jersey library association. It is an annotated list of books showing the customs of other peoples and their relation to each other. The reading of these books should help one to gain a more sympathetic understanding of other countries and races. Miss Buttenheim suggested that much could be done by librarians to further the use of this list and by influencing people to read along these lines. "Maps as aids to International understanding" was given by Lois Wenman, in charge of the map collection of the Newark public library. The study of the different kinds of maps and their uses, the selection of the most useful, and a description of the great International map of the world now under way was included in Miss Wenman's talk. Miss Askew spoke briefly on county libraries in New Jersey.

The first speaker of the afternoon session was James McDonald, chairman of the Foreign Policy association. His graphic account of communism in Russia was exceptionally enlightening. He has only recently returned from there and his interest in the subject is very keen. He said that the present regime in Russia is not all sweetness and light, that it is no place for liberalism, for it is one extreme or the other,

but that communism in itself is a religion to communists. They are zealous and fanatics. Each thinks that he is helping to remake the world, and believes that the world will eventually be reformed by communism. Mr McDonald said that the one million is trying to recreate the four million in this vast country which he characterized as backward in many things modern.

In Katharine Fullerton Gerould's talk on The short story she asked librarians to interest themselves in it and its advancement. "People do not buy collections of short stories as often as they do novels, for many of the stories have appeared previously in magazines. Often many of the best short stories have been lost or are difficult to obtain because they have never been published in collections. Critics seem not to take the collections very seriously." As Mrs Gerould affirmed, many of the most remembered passages in fiction are from short stories. Is not this the test of a story's greatness? In her opinion, Rudyard Kipling is the supreme short story writer, "for," she said, "if Kipling has not put life into his short stories what author has put life in the novel." Among the great short stories of the world are certain chapters of the Bible, portions of the Iliad, some of the Scottish ballads and Chaucer's tales. To these she added Kipling's and some of Ring Lardner's and quoted the Kipling lines "There are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays, and every-single-one-of-them-is-right."

Mrs Gerould places the United States ahead of most other countries in the production of short stories, and mentioned the galaxy of short story writers we have had from the sixties to the present. Of some of her contemporaries who are helping America in the forefront of short story writing are Wilbur Daniel Stelle, Charles Dobie, John Russell, Ben Ames Williams, Harry Griswold Dwight and Ring Lardner.

D. E. P.



**New Mexico**—The New Mexico library association had its annual meeting at the time of the State Education meeting in Albuquerque, Nov. 4-5. Two meetings were held, a public libraries section and a school libraries section. The attendance at both of these tripled that at the last annual meeting, and there were many people outside the library profession present. All joined enthusiastically in the discussions and the officers of the association felt that their efforts during the past year to arouse library interest in this almost virgin state had borne good fruit.

A constitution was adopted, thus completing the organization of the association which was started last year.

Papers were read by Elizabeth Cooley on *Shall we keep Children's Book Week?*, and by Wilma Loy Shelton on *"Adequate order tools for a small library"* at the public libraries section, and by Mrs Claire W. Foster on *"The High-school library's part in the education of Carlsbad students,"* and by Mrs T. E. Whitney on *"Extension work to the rural schools thru the public library"* at the school libraries section.

The most significant parts of the meetings, however, were the reports of Miss Goree for the Publicity committee and the president's report. As chairman of the Publicity committee, Miss Goree reported news of New Mexico libraries and book-lists being published at regular intervals by the state papers, radio talks over the State College broadcasting station every two weeks, as well as articles in several monthly publications having large circulations in the state.

Continuing the report of work accomplished, the present county library law was published in pamphlet form by the association and has been distributed to school superintendents and club women. A partial survey of libraries thruout New Mexico has been made and while this should be completed, it serves as a valuable working basis. Miss Merrill's visit was most

successful, and perhaps the one biggest thing accomplished by the association. As a result of this meeting, it was voted to form a library council of non-members of the profession to advise concerning the best type of legislation for the state that the association should work for. A start has been made in the organization of this council.

Following these reports, there was much animated discussion about the direction our activities should take for the coming year. This discussion was entered into by school superintendents, by the president of the New Mexico federation of Women's clubs, and by the heads of different kinds of libraries. The support of the Women's clubs, which is one of the most powerful organizations in the state, was pledged, and the rural supervisor of schools offered her interested help.

Following this, reports were heard of library activities all over the state, which again showed the awakening of interest in library matters.

MARGERY BEDINGER  
Secretary

**North Carolina**—The third biennial and sixteenth meeting of the North Carolina library association was held at Charlotte, November 2-3, with a registration of 77. Called to order by the president, Nellie M. Rowe, librarian of the Greensboro public library, the meeting heard a talk by A. R. Newsome, secretary of the N. C. historical commission, on *Collection and preservation of local history by North Carolina libraries*.

An informal reception by the Woman's club followed the session.

The association was the guest of the Charlotte public library at an evening banquet, with Dr Louis R. Wilson, librarian of the University of North Carolina and a charter member of the association, as toastmaster. Following the welcome by the mayor of Charlotte and the response by C. M. Baker, vice-president of the association, a report on library progress in North Carolina in 1925-27 was given by Mrs Lillian B. Griggs, secretary

and director of the State library commission, who mentioned, among other achievements, the organization of a public library at High Point, a new building for Pack Memorial library, Asheville, three new college library buildings, the inauguration of county work by three libraries, and the establishment of four new negro libraries.

The president's address dealt with Responsibilities of the librarian to the state, stressing rural service and training the taste of the children. It was followed by a talk by Julia Wright Merrill, of A. L. A. committee on library extension, who spoke on The County unit for library extension.

Section meetings were held. The college and university section, with Cornelia S. Love, order librarian of the University of North Carolina, as chairman, discussed the pamphlet collection, the librarian's reading, the use of fiction, recreational reading, and the budgeting of library funds among the different departments.

The children's librarians' round-table, with Marianne R. Martin, librarian of the High Point public library, presiding, heard papers on the value of the story-hour and problems that had been successfully met, and discussed Book Week plans and the picture collection.

Under the direction of Miss Rowe, the public library section heard reports on library work for negroes.

The trustees section held an open meeting, under the direction of Harvey Moore, a trustee of the Charlotte public library, and discussed the ideal trustee.

The general session for the afternoon was opened by a talk by Miss Clara Crawford, librarian of the Durham public library, on County library work in England. Dr Edgar W. Knight, of the State department of education, discussed Possibilities of North Carolina libraries, the theme of which was the need of better schools to cultivate the reading habit.

The following officers were elected for a two-year period: President, Anne

Pierce, Charlotte public library; first vice-president, Frank Capps, State College library; second vice-president, Emma Woodward, Wilmington public library; secretary, Cornelia S. Love, University of North Carolina library, and treasurer, Bertie H. Craig, H. Leslie Perry Memorial library, Henderson.

The closing session was held at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium. Frank Graham's address on the need of an awakening of social accounting in North Carolina gave rise to a motion, unanimously passed, that a committee be appointed to plan a library campaign in North Carolina.

**Pennsylvania**—The Pennsylvania library association held its twenty-seventh annual session, October 12-15, in Harrisburg, with more than 200 registered. The main contributions of the program were made by Dr Asa Don Dickinson, of the University of Pennsylvania library, who thrilled his audience by relating his findings in the wonderful Scheide collection of books and manuscripts in Titusville; Dr George T. Ettinger, of Allentown, whose subject Letters and morals was impressive; Rev J. C. Stuart, Berwick, who spoke on The trustee and service.

The evening audience heard Louis Bromfield, novelist, whose subject was The American spectacle.

Friday morning's session on children's literature was a meeting long to be remembered by every person present. Ethel M. Fair presided. Talks on old as well as new children's books were given by Miss Seaman of Macmillan Co.; Miss Gulliver of Little, Brown & Co., Miss Bryan of Doubleday, Page & Co.; Miss Fiery of E. P. Dutton & Co.; Miss Fish of Frederick A. Stokes Co.; Miss Kirkus of Harper Bros.; Miss Zeitlin of Doran, and Miss Chamberlin of Houghton, Mifflin.

At the County Library session, I. D. App, county superintendent of Dauphin county in his address on "What a county library means to a county superintendent" took as his slogan

Equality of opportunity for all boys and girls.

The conference closed on Friday evening with a banquet.

Officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, Eleanor Carver, Sharon; vice-president, Susan Himmelwright, Woodlawn; secretary, R. P. Bliss, Harrisburg; treasurer, Alice Willigerod, Hazleton.

JESSIE WILSON  
Secretary

**South Dakota**—The South Dakota library association held its twenty-first annual meeting at Brookings, October 18-19. Over 50 librarians were present and 10 trustees attended this meeting. A trustees' section was organized for the first time.

A very fine program had been planned, weather conditions were ideal, and the Brookings people were perfect hosts. One feature of particular interest was the opportunity to inspect the new Lincoln Memorial library on the State College campus. This building was dedicated by President Coolidge who expressed admiration for its beauty and completeness.

Many pleasant group meetings and social affairs made this meeting one long to be remembered.

Officers elected for next year are: President, Mrs. Marian Weidensee, Gettysburg; vice-president, Clara Davies, Dakota Wesleyan College, Mitchell; secretary-treasurer, Pearl Donahy, Redfield.

CELESTE E. BARNES  
Secretary

#### A Joyous Find

Miss Marion Talley, the celebrated Metropolitan Opera star, had been searching for months for a particular arrangement of an old English song.

She was fortunate enough to find this lately in the Indianapolis public library in the music department. Greta Smith, head of the music department, says it was quite as exciting as finding the words of the Star Spangled Banner for Mary Garden was for the American Librarian in Paris.

#### Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux

##### Fourth conference

Some 200 organizations were represented at the fourth conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, which met at Trinity College, Cambridge, England, September 23-26. Following a reception by Sir J. J. Thomson, O. M., Master of Trinity, Sir Geoffrey Butler, K. B. E., Senior M. P. for Cambridge University, delivered the presidential address.

Among the many well-known experts contributing to the discussions on important technical subjects, were Sir Henry Lyons, F. R. S. (Director, the Science Museum), A. E. Overton, M. C. (Principal, Board of Trade), Sir Richard Gregory, D. S. C. F. Inst. P. F. R. A. S. (Editor of *Nature*), Lieut.-Colonel L. Newcombe (librarian, Central Library for students), A. E. Twentymen (librarian, British Institute of Adult Education), Dr J. E. de Vos van Steenwijk (International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation), and the Rt. Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett, K. C. V. O., F. R. S., D. C. L., LL. D. Such subjects were discussed as the recent Report of the Public Libraries committee; Coöperation between libraries, government departments, and political societies; Information and statistics in commerce and industry; Special educational libraries; the formation of a panel of expert translators. One meeting was devoted to the special problems of the Information Bureaux.

With the assistance of the Carnegie United Kingdom trustees, the association is publishing in the spring of 1928 a Directory of sources of specialized information, edited by G. F. Barwick, late Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum. The book is unique in character inasmuch as it will give under numerous subject headings full details of the various sources in Great Britain and Ireland where specialized information may be obtained.

GUY W. KEELING  
Secretary

### Interesting Things in Print

The Good Citizenship Bureau, 250 Park Avenue, New York City, has issued a series of pamphlets on "Little talks on family finance" which will prove extremely valuable to clubs studying budget work and interested in the financial knowledge every family should have in condensed form.

The fourth revised edition of material on geography by Mary J. Booth, librarian of the Eastern Illinois State Teachers College, has been issued. Considerable extension has been made of material, including commercial products, industries, transportation and educational exhibits, which may be obtained free or at small cost.

John Cotton Dana, librarian of the Public library, Newark, N. J., has issued a little pamphlet with a yellow orange cover entitled "Surprising statements." The surprising statements are paragraphs culled from recently published books and periodicals and they are on a wide range of subjects from business to aesthetics. The pamphlet is an effort to stimulate the reading of worthwhile books by the Newark public.

The subject of rubber has come to be a thing of international importance and the much discussion about the supply, extent and use of rubber makes a book on the manipulation of india rubber and the preparation of rubberized fabrics of special importance. The work, *Rubber hand stamps*, is a practical treatise prepared by T. O'Connor Sloane, well known writer on practical electricity, and is issued by the Norman W. Henley Co., New York. The present volume is the fourth revised edition.

A series of leaflets has been issued by the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore. They were prepared by Miss Mary Wilkinson under the title of "Adventures in Books" and extend from the fourth thru the eighth grades giving annotated lists of books entitled to inclusion, under the caption "Adventures in Books." A special feature

for which librarians generally will be grateful is a reprint of the delightful presentation of "The Seven joys of reading," by the late lamented Mary Wright Plummer.

A volume of Suggestions for Parent-Teachers' work has been issued by the Parent Teacher association of Ethical Culture school, Central Park West and 63rd Street, New York City. The objects, aims, methods, and results of the work as given are of value as a guide for those who wish to develop the co-operative work of those interested in the teaching forces of the community, touching the children. It gives many tangible ideas for Parent-Teacher activities and records results of work actually accomplished.

"The Industrial transition in Japan" is a condensed report on the industrial situation in Japan by a representative of the United States government, Maurice Holland, director of the Division of engineering and industrial research of the National Research Council. The subjects discussed are Japanese fisheries, civil aviation, silk industry, etc. The general impressions and conclusions of Mr Holland's study of these things in Japan are given. The little volume of 50 odd pages is typographically above the average. An industrial map of Japan showing location of its products is of special interest.

A very comprehensive and undoubtedly valuable publication is the Survey of the Queens Borough public library, New York City. Extension and other needs of the Queens Borough library have been under discussion for some years. Its history, development, budget, income, needs, extension, finances, etc. seem to have been adequately dealt with in this quarto volume survey of 80 pages.

The work was done under the direction of Owen J. Dever, the director of the library and the heads of the departments, to aid the Board of estimate and apportionment to determine upon a library policy for the Queens Borough public library.



The 1927-1928 edition of *Dates Ahead*, a mimeographed pamphlet issued annually by the Committee on Publicity Methods, 130 East 22nd St., New York, is a list of international, national or regional holidays, anniversaries, special weeks, campaigns and conventions. Prepared for social work organizations it has been found useful by librarians, magazine and newspaper editors, newspaper advertising departments, program committees of clubs and others. 20 cents a copy.

The *Journal of Educational Sociology* is the name of a new periodical issued by the American Viewpoint Society, Inc., 13 Astor Place, New York City.

The magazine is edited by Dr E. George Payne of the School of education, New York University. Dr Payne is one of the outstanding authorities in the United States on sociological problems, and will have associated with him other leaders in this important field, whose combined support should make the *Journal* a very important publication relating to sociological problems.

A pamphlet under the title "Find it yourself" is a brief course in the use of books and libraries under the contract system. It is intended for teachers, librarians and students as a handbook to teach the use of various kinds of reference tools, containing questions and queries in finding which one becomes intelligent as to which, and what kind of reference books give different kinds of information. Published by the H. W. Wilson Company in two editions, one for teachers and one for students. Compilation was made by Elizabeth Scripture and Margaret R. Greer. High schools giving library instruction, as well as library schools, will find the book of value.

A recent publication is the "Universities and college libraries of Great Britain and Ireland" by Lt.-Col. Luxmoore Newcombe, librarian of the Central Library for students, London. The author says in the preface that in preparing a lecture on British university libraries delivered at University College,

London, he discovered the dearth of material on the subject. He was led to collect such information as was possible and this is presented in book form in order that the list of university and college libraries that form the contents may be as complete as possible and be available to those who wish to use it. The book makes no attempt to deal with the history or organization of the libraries but merely gives practical details of value to the research student. In order that these details may be readily accessible the information is given in the form of a reference book rather than as a connected narrative.

In a volume of Random rhymes by Elizabeth and Grenville Kleiser, issued by Funk and Wagnalls, is a poem entitled The Public library in which Grenville Kleiser, the author, expresses the joyous impression he received in using the public library. The poem of five verses closes:

Its books bring peace and rest;  
Of all those friends I cannot say  
Which one I love the best!

### Books

Akers, Susan Grey; Simple library cataloging; 84 p.; A. L. A., 1927. \$1.25.

"Simple library cataloging" aims to furnish an easily understandable outline from which the person unfamiliar with cataloging practice may take direction in preparing printed material for circulation use. The instruction given is, as the title indicates, easy to understand, fairly illustrative with examples, and quite specific.

McColvin, Lionel R.; Library extension work and publicity; 240 p.; Grafton, London, 1927. 10/6.

In this volume library publicity is given credit for achieving more than the mere advertisement of the public libraries' wares—it serves the double purpose of increasing circulation, and at the same time advancing the library movement in its local and national aspects. Thru extension work, the use of, and interest in the library by library patrons, is enlarged, and Mr McColvin gives in detail the means by

which extension service is being and can best be rendered.

There is a fine distinction drawn between publicity and advertising. This distinction is not avowed; but his publicity methods are concerned with the devices for awakening a public consciousness of library activity and services rather than their proclamation. Every phase of publicity work,—printed, oral, and exhibitory, is covered in the book which Walter A. Briscoe has called "an inspiring volume."

Briscoe, Walter A.; Library planning; 141 p.; Grafton, London, 1927. \$2.00. For sale thru H. W. Wilson and Company at \$2.30.

Mr Briscoe, librarian of the City library, Nottingham, England, has brought together in this work a great many detailed designs and plans for typical English and Scotch libraries. From the presentation of the good and bad features of the examples given, he draws conclusions as to the best methods to follow in working out plans for contemplated library buildings. Of course, certain practices characteristic of library administration in England and Scotland are not recognized in this country, but discounting these, the book is extremely helpful in a consideration of the more general problems of library arrangement.

The great number of illustrations might make the book valuable for architects interested in design, but to librarians it will appeal as a contribution to their science. B.

The wonderful Skazki which Miss Ida Zeitlin gave to the public last year has been followed by another book, equally meritorious, Gezzar Khan. Here are two fine books, the first sent out by the author, which because of their fine literary workmanship, appeal to the booklover and, as folktales, bring something new and very much worthwhile to young people. The refined gorgeousness of the illustrations by the Russian artist, Theodor Najeden, give added pleasure in the possession or perusal of the volumes.

The old Russia represented in "Skazki," tales and legends of old Rus-

sia, has that fine flavor which despite everything, appeals to the universal taste. The later book, Gezzar Khan, gives out a pleasing aroma of the nomadic phase of early Chinese life when power and glory belonged of right to the conquerors, to the brave and the true.

Miss Zeitlin tells us that the sources of her folk stories in these two books were found in translations from the original, the one from Russian tales by eminent Russian authors, and the other from a German translation from the original Mongolian—made by order of the Imperial Academy of Science of St. Petersburg for a purely scholarly purpose but which also revealed the wonderful riches of folk lore of central Asia.

In creating a trust fund of \$50,000 for the Staff association of the Brooklyn public library David A. Boody adds another public service to his long list. In spite of his ninety years Mr Boody still takes an active interest in affairs, and especially in all that relates to the institution whose officials are to be the beneficiaries of his latest gift. No man has done more than this former mayor of the old city of Brooklyn to enlist public interest in behalf of library development.—*Brooklyn Eagle*.

### Library Schools

Carnegie library, Pittsburgh

On the evening of November 10, the director and faculty gave a reception at the College club of Pittsburgh in honor of the class of 1928. Pittsburgh alumnae, members of the Carnegie Library staff, and other friends of the school were present.

The first period for practical work will close just before the Christmas holidays. Particular care has been taken in making these first assignments and the previous experience of the student carefully considered, in order that she might be given the type of work most valuable to her. Provision has been made for four days of block practice work before the end of the first semester.

The students greatly enjoyed and profited by the Carnegie Library exhibit for Children's Book Week. A room was set aside for the Exhibit, containing a most attractively arranged col-

lection of children's books. There were also activities in the branches and the class had an opportunity to observe the significance and possibilities of Children's Book Week.

The following class officers have been chosen:

President, Elizabeth Mendenhall, Syracuse University, '25; vice-president, Mrs Ruth E. Litch, University of New Hampshire, 1918-19; secretary-treasurer, Ella M. English, Pennsylvania College for Women, '27.

Miss Florence Pearlman, '27, has been appointed departmental librarian of the Pennsylvania State department of public instruction at Harrisburg.

FRANCES H. KELLY  
Principal

#### Drexel Institute

The routine of the work of the first term has been broken by a number of visits to nearby libraries and lectures from visiting librarians. Asa Don Dickinson, librarian of the University of Pennsylvania library, read a paper "An Unknown book treasure house in Pennsylvania." "The Huntington library and the terms upon which it may be used by scholars" was presented by Clifford B. Clapp, formerly of the Huntington library. A visit from George Watson Cole, of Pasadena, Cal., also gave pleasure.

The students visited the Pennsylvania Historical Society library and heard a talk on the Franklin collections and manuscripts, by the librarian, Dr Montgomery. They also visited the magnificent new building of the Free public library of Philadelphia.

Mildred H. Pope, librarian of the Girard College library, is giving the course on loan desk work. The class is using the new textbook compiled by Miss Flexner from the W. W. Charters Survey.

The members of the class of 1928 have all joined the A. L. A.

Helen M. Harris of Sedalia, Mo., has joined the faculty in charge of afternoon course for teacher-librarians, and the summer school of 1928.

Margaret Kehl, '25, formerly of the Trenton public library, has accepted a position in the Municipal reference library of New York.

Dorothy McC. Hammond, '26, has resigned as librarian of the Dickinson College library, Carlisle, Pa., to accept the position of librarian at the Normal school, Glassboro, N. J.

Dorothy Randolph, '27, has accepted a position as substitute librarian in the Roosevelt junior high school, New Brunswick, N. J.

Helen A. Chadwick, '25, has accepted a position as reviser in the Library school of the Women's College of New Jersey.

MRS ANNE W. HOWLAND  
Director

#### Pratt Institute

The month of October is one of adjustment to environment and of concentration in the fundamentals of library practice. By the time it is over, the students know one another fairly well, are acquainted with the staff and with the library, and have some sort of notion as to what library routine consists of. They are then ready for an introduction to the broader aspects of professional life. The first outside contact this year came by way of the fall reception given by the Graduates' association, when they met about 75 of the local alumni and alumnae. They then realize that they have become members of a larger family connection, for there is much of the home-coming element in this first gathering of the clan.

The course of visiting lecturers also begins in November, the first speaker being traditionally our nearest neighbor, Dr Frank P. Hill, who gave an entertaining account of his trip thru England to Edinburgh.

A traveling exhibition of books illustrated by American artists, sent out by the American Institute of Graphic Arts, occupied the Art gallery of the library for three weeks in November, thereby giving the class an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the best work of modern illustrators.

The vice-director spoke before the staff and training class of the Washington County free library at Hagerstown, Maryland, on Staff relations.

The class of 1928 has elected the following officers:

President, N. Louise Ruckteshler, Norwich, New York; secretary and treasurer, William W. Shirley, Franklin, N. H.;

Women's Club representative, Mary E. Blossom, Portland, Ore.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,  
Vice-director.

#### Syracuse University

During the month of November the school had the privilege of listening to two visiting lecturers. On November 18, Miss Anna Thompson of the Syracuse public library spoke to the students on Library extension, and Dr Frank P. Hill of the Brooklyn public library gave two lectures on The Library's opportunity and on Book selection and purchase, November 28 and 29.

Miss Adeline Zachert, supervisor of school libraries in New York state, was a recent visitor at the school.

On October 28, the students of the school held a Halloween party, the first general social event of the year in which freshmen, sophomores and juniors joined with the seniors.

Pi Lambda Sigma, the honorary library science society, after having been inactive for the last two years, has been revived on a somewhat different basis. The present membership may include 13 seniors, eight juniors, and four sophomores, chosen on a basis of high scholarship average from a list recommended by the faculty.

#### Appointments of the Class of 1927

Hazel Collins, temporarily with the 67th Street branch of the New York public library.

Carol M. Dean, reference librarian, Public library, Troy, N. Y.

Helen E. Decker, assistant, Public library, Utica, N. Y.

Ethel Johnson, assistant, Public library, Buffalo, N. Y.

Carol Kendall, librarian, North Side high school library, Corning, N. Y.

Evelyn Lerner, senior assistant, Public library, Rochester, N. Y.

Martha Meelig, assistant in N. Y. State College of Forestry library at Syracuse University.

Louise Neill, assistant, Charles E. White branch, Public library, Syracuse, N. Y.

Irene Overocker, librarian, High school, Geneva, N. Y.

Dorothea Sparks, assistant, Public library, Syracuse, N. Y.

Orpha Stewart, assistant-librarian at Mayo Foundation for medical education and research, Rochester, Minn.

Ellen Tubridy, junior assistant catalog department, Syracuse University library.

WHARTON MILLER  
Director

#### University of Washington

Thelma Edwards, '22, formerly assistant-cataloger, University of Washington library, is in the catalog department of the New York public library. She went to New York via the Panama Canal.

Lois Klock, '25, was married on August 31, to Manuel Clair Dailey. They will live in Washington, D. C.

Flora Bell Ludington, '20, has returned to Mills College, as reference librarian.

Dorothy Ann Pierce, '26, was married on July 26 to Wendell Alfred Milliman.

W. E. HENRY,  
Dean

#### Western Reserve University

Instruction is being given in two divisions, graduate and undergraduate, and the schedule is confined, during the first semester, chiefly to the basic courses in technical and bibliographic subjects, given by the regular instructors. A course of lectures on Foreign literatures in translation is being given by Prof Clara L. Myers, of the College for Women, W. R. U.

The students have been assigned to their first practice period at the loan desks in the Cleveland library branches under the supervision of Miss Sargeant-Smith; the course in lending systems is being given parallel with this practice period.

The class of 1928 has organized with the election of the following officers: President, Martha E. Morse, Kewanee, Ill.; first vice-president, Esther N. Votruba, Duluth, Minn.; second vice-president, Irene L. Hayes, Virginia, Minn.; secretary, Frances Freshley, Mentor, O.; treasurer, Dorothy Mulac, Lakewood, O.

Jane E. Roberts, '06, is now the chief of the Order and Catalog department of the Public library, Akron, Ohio.

Mildred I. Moore, '13, has graduated in Law and is now a member of the Cleveland bar.

Rose E. DeMoss, '15, was married, October 28, to Jack Bathurst, of San Francisco.

Mrs Adaline C. Merrill, '08, acting librarian of Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, died suddenly Oct. 14.

ALICE S. TYLER  
Dean



## Department of School Libraries

*Books should to one of four ends conduce—  
Wisdom, piety, delight or use.*

### The Problem of the Adolescent Reader<sup>1</sup>

Helen E. Watson, librarian, Haven school, Evanston, Ill.

The library has one of its greatest opportunities for constructive work with the adolescent boy and girl, for they are then at their most receptive, impressionable age. Since adolescence is defined, generally, as the second 12 years in the child's life, the intermediate or junior high school deals with the period of early adolescence from 11 to 16. Psychologists call this the period of deepening thought, when the child acquires deeper and fuller meaning from experiences by searching below the surface of things. His mind builds castles and daydreams, while his feelings become diversified and his desire more intense. His curiosity is overpowering.

What is called the exploratory age, about the seventh grade, when the child wishes to sample things, to probe into life for a keener understanding of it all, is vastly important. Wise educators are turning this to account by offering numerous so-called "exploratory courses" for the student. The library can be and is a most important factor at this stage in determining the child's interests, aptitudes and tastes. After discovering the child's strength or weakness, the library can remedy or overcome his limitations and assist him to build up his strength. The library helps the child to find his or her place in the world when he is searching for a vocation.

Professor Thomas H. Briggs in his book, *The Junior high school*, when outlining the five objectives of junior high-school education, states that the fifth objective is, "To start each pupil on the career, which, as a result of the exploratory courses, he, his parents, and the school are convinced is

most likely to be of profit to him and the state." In this choice of his career, the library assists most effectively.

The librarian, much more than the teacher, is taken into the child's confidence concerning his ambition. I say that with assurance because I have been both teacher and librarian. My efforts to establish a feeling of comradeship and sympathy have resulted in such amusing experiences as having a boy return to the library to tell me about the "swell" fight they had in a vacant lot near the school. Another child dashed from the playground to urge me to go out and see the double rainbow. Such experiences did not come to me as a teacher, but perhaps that was because I had not yet caught the knack of making the children my friends thru books. At any rate, I am having a glorious time finding the right book for the boys who wish to become construction-engineers, ship-captains, cartoonists, or authors, and for the girls who hope to be dietitians, secretaries, or teachers.

Today an eighth grade boy asked me for *Microbe hunters* by De Kruif and *On the trail of ancient man* by Andrews. When we discovered that those books were missing from the shelves he assured me that he would return to ask for them, because he intends to be a scientist.

To our library come two avid readers of chemistry, who, after mastering all of our juvenile books on the subject, demanded more. I drew from the adult shelves and found their tastes insatiable. The father of one boy is assisting them with their experiments. They assure me that they are both to become chemical experts.

Another boy, whose aeroplane, built from books on model planes, took first prize in our Evanston newspaper contest, was sent to Memphis to meet Lindy and to compete in another contest. He proudly brought his aero-

<sup>1</sup> Read before Lending section, Illinois library association, Joliet, October 28, 1927.

plane to the library to show me. He requested Lindbergh's book *We*, so that he might know more about the famous aviator whom he was to meet. If all the demands which I receive for books on aviation mean budding aviators, I anticipate the air being thick with planes above Evanston in a few years. But of course, not all such interests develop past the reading on those subjects.

Perhaps, the boys who have become expert at boat-building and radio-making, and have been our constant borrowers of books on those subjects may not build boats or assemble radios for a living, but they have discovered avocations. They have also learned that the library is the place to find further information on the subject. The boy who built the prize-taking boats last year told me that he intends to become a doctor. He has discovered for himself the two hobbies of boats and books. I hope that he will develop into the sort of doctor who can talk about something besides operations and hospitals.

Vocational guidance is a fascinating and worth-while service. Oftentimes we do not hear the child's avowed intention of becoming an architect, a teacher, a lawyer, or a nurse, but we are frequently given the opportunity of guessing where his interests will lead him in later life, and we are privileged to guide those growing aptitudes.

Occasionally the child entrusts us with an expression of his or her ambition, as happened the other day. Phyllis had been waiting patiently and smiling at me across the desk, while I checked books for several eager, seventh grade children and some second grade adorables, who could scarcely push the books on to the high desk. Then, stepping closer, with the maturity felt only by eighth "graders," she smiled again and said, "I intend to be a librarian, a children's librarian. It looks like such fun. Isn't it?"

"Yes, it is," I assured her.

"Couldn't you let me do some of the

bookslipping and checking?" she continued.

Of course, I taught her how at once and she decreased the great pile of unslipped books accumulating in the desk. Practically every class in our library, and a new one comes every 45 minutes, contains an embryo librarian in the boy or girl who considers it a privilege to be allowed to work behind the high desk. John, who spends every spare moment there, tells me we have the busiest library he has ever seen, his experience being limited to three libraries.

In our large and handsome new building, we have the most perfect of modern equipment furnished by the school system. The library supplies the books for circulation, while the school-board furnishes reference books and juvenile magazines. The school and the library share in paying the librarian's salary. It is an ideal arrangement which could be worked out only by a librarian with such foresight and vision as Miss Ida F. Wright, working with two progressive superintendents and coöperative library and school-boards. This combination of the school and library is a most happy arrangement for all concerned and seems the logical solution for problems of both institutions. The library does all of the mechanical work of preparing the new circulating books for the shelves, as well as having the old books rebound and repaired. The school paid for having the cataloging done. From the chief librarian, comes desired assistance in the problems of library administration, while the school principal is willing to help with questions touching school matters. If the library system contributes more in service and books, the school system contributes more towards the librarian's salary and provides the room and furniture for a branch library. Since both institutions are tax-supported, it is highly sensible for them to combine in giving a greater service, at less cost, to the public. The school gains in service received, while the library

gains in service rendered, or by increased circulation.

The school library provides books conveniently close for the student and supplies him with the desired reading matter when his need is most urgent. It provides the teacher with supplementary and interesting material relative to the subject studied and gives her pupils the opportunity to increase their knowledge by more reading.

Miss Emma C. Barrette, a teacher in Portland, Oregon, writing for *School and Society*, says of the library period in school, "It will introduce 'pep,' self-reliance, a knowledge of how to get information and how to use it after you get it, and above all, and to my mind far more important than the rest, it will almost inevitably lead the child to do some reflective thinking."

Miss Barrette's article entitled, *The Use of Libraries as an aid in school-room work*, is such an inspiration to teachers for making more use of their school library that we are having mimeographed copies struck off for each teacher in the building.

The most effective school library is the central store-house, the heart of a large and active body circulating information to every department and group in the building.

"It enriches my course," is the statement made by our most efficient social science teacher. The sort of teacher who is anxious to enrich her course is the best of agents for giving the needed impetus to the reading of pupils. We need more of that sort.

The expression "enrichment of course" connotes a wealth of material, a lavish supply of information poured out for the courses needing it. To obtain the most from the library, the whole curriculum should be rich in those activities which cause the children to wish books.

There is a recent and admirable trend in education toward correlation of literature with other activities. Prof Rugg, in his social science pamphlets, for eighth grade American history, and seventh grade geography combined with European history, has

stressed the reading of quantities of supplementary literature thru suggestive bibliographies. Prof Hill's Community life and civic problems has a quite thoro plan for relating civics and literature. The objection to correlation expressed by some literature teachers is that the beauty of a classic may be lost or wasted when it is presented as illustrative material in some other subject. The teacher who feels that danger will avoid it anyway, while the teacher who does not feel that danger could not avoid it. Successful correlation requires a background of much reading by the teacher or librarian. She must create for the child an interest in the books she asks him to read and to do this she must be thoroly acquainted with the books herself. The best teacher leads, rather than pushes, the child to reading.

There are those who inquire why the adolescent reader needs guidance. Authorities on children's reading seem to agree that the tendency of the adolescent, whose reading is left to chance, is toward the selection of books which unsuit him for life. Terman and Lima say in their book, *Children's reading*, "The girl of 12 begins to dip into the great mass of sentimental trash meant only for adult consumption. The boy, who has developed a more pronounced taste for adventure stories, may now turn to a harmful type of sensational story."

The adolescent would seem to be at the dangerous age for his taste development in reading. It is the school library's problem to guide the girl away from the sentimental trash and the boy from the sensational story. It is a large problem to overcome the appeal of the worthless adult novels he oftentimes finds at home and the influence of the questionable movies which develop tastes for over-exciting and undesirable reading matter. The public library seldom has the opportunity to reach the boy or girl who needs guidance, because that is the child who avoids the library. The school library reaches him at the crucial time and, at least once a week, offers him good lit-

erature in the most attractive form possible.

Each child in our school is scheduled to come to the library for one period each week with his group. During the noon hour, we offer elective periods for the students who wish extra time for reading and reference work. Each intermediate school child keeps a reading record on a card in a filing cabinet. They also keep notebooks in which they jot down their notes about the books as they read them and in which they write the instructions given them in class. These notebooks are oftentimes very elaborately illustrated with pictures clipped from magazines and publisher's circulars, or with the child's own drawings. Most of the children exceed the required amount of reading, which is one book a month making five a semester. As a reward for their work and to check up the laggards, for my own sake as well as the child's, I have graded each pupil for his library work once each semester. Since there is some question in my mind about the need for doing this, I may discontinue it, in an attempt to make everything more spontaneous.

At the regular library period, I give instruction in the use and care of books and libraries and appreciation lessons in literature. The seventh grade people are taught the use of the card catalog and the meaning of the Dewey decimal classification. They are given drill in the use of the dictionary, encyclopedias and the index of a book and an atlas. The eighth grade pupils are taught the use of special reference books and of the *Reader's Guide to Periodicals*. They are given experience in making bibliography on some subject from their curriculum.

Altho we worked out our course of instruction three years ago, I find that it corresponds very closely to the plans outlined in the *School Library Yearbook*, volume one, published this summer by the American Library Association. That handbook will be found most helpful to the librarian who is planning lessons for her school library. Every aid of that

sort proves most welcome. I should like to suggest that the next volume of the *School Library Yearbook* should contain projects other school librarians have evolved to stimulate reading for fun.

Sometimes the incentive, of requirements from teachers, is lacking for some subject about which the children should be well-read. If interest in travel and biography may be awakened, the child soon discovers for himself what interesting subjects they may be altho it is the exceptional child who discovers this unaided. We built our American Hall of Fame and then enlarged it to an International Hall of Fame to create an interest in biography. Each child chose some person entered in our American Hall of Fame and read about that man or woman so that he would be able to tell the class why they were included there. At the top of our large bulletin board, we tacked a picture of the Hall of Fame at New York University. Below, we listed the names of its members and we discussed those whom we knew, before looking up those we didn't know.

We started a large world map of good books, which was partly finished when Paul Paine published his Map of adventure and stole our thunder. Our next venture was a world flight after we had read enough to become interested in the world fliers. We traced their route in red crayon on a large blank map. Each child who made a stop on the world flight, by reading a book of travel about that country, was allowed to put a small red sticker with his number on the map, then record his name, number and the book he had read in a list below the map. These devices materially increased the reading and our circulation in these two classes of books, which had been large and neglected.

Our school is fortunate in having a dramatics department working in connection with Northwestern University. This department stimulates the reading of ballads, Shakespeare, and such classics as the Arthurian legends and Robin Hood. Our natural science de-



partment furnishes enough inspirational questions about plants, animals, geography and astronomy to give our science books the use we wish for them. Our most active eighth grade social science department provides the incentive for the use of American histories.

The reference questions which come across the desk are splendid indications of the value of our school library. Here is a typical list taken from observation the past week: "What have you about irrigation in the United States?" "Please help me find a quotation from Roosevelt." "Where can I find the Tudors and the Stuarts?" "Where is Timbuctoo?" "Have you Dolly Madison's letters and biography or something about life at the capital during her time?" "I wish pictures and books about peoples' homes." "How large is the Assuan dam?" "Where can I find pictures of hot, dry plains and cold, high plains?" "Have you pictures of Elizabethan costumes besides those in books?" "What is the population of Africa?" "Have you pictures of fire-prevention?"

These are just a few of the questions cropping out of class discussions. Perhaps the child has been sent by his teacher or he may have come on his own initiative to satisfy his curiosity or answer a question to his own satisfaction. Many of those who come with questions are able to locate material without asking my help.

At a recent meeting of the English department, we discussed having more emphasis put upon the study of classics in literature or reading classes at "home room" periods. At the request of that department, we made two lists of the classics, in fiction and poetry, which should be familiar to seventh and eighth grade pupils. These lists are to be revised by the English department. Then mimeographed copies will be furnished each literature teacher before Children's Book Week. During Children's Book Week our dramatics department is producing for assembly period, a book play, written by a library class in our intermediate

school last year. We had learned our parts and were almost ready to produce *Hidden Treasure* when our school building burned.

I have been asked to state what the adult department can do for the adolescent reader. Of course, I shall say that school libraries, in which the main library furnishes the circulating books, would be the first step. It is important to develop in the young person the library habit, so that he carries over from the school library to the main library his search for entertainment and information thru reading. When the child graduates from the juvenile to the adult department, as he does, in our library, upon entrance into high school, he needs some competent person to suggest and advise about his choice of books. There is so much worthless material among adult fiction which the child seeks first. Perhaps some of the worst of it could be discarded or put upon closed shelves without loss to adult readers. Yet I do not believe in establishing boards of censorship. Of course, the quickest way to create an interest in a book is to forbid the child to read it. Oftentimes a suggested substitute will be taken by the young person in place of the harmful book for which it is substituted. Our browsing corner at main library was discontinued, partly because the space was needed for registration files, and partly because it was not used enough. The idea of having books selected and labeled for him does not appeal to the adolescent child when he knows that there is a much larger collection of unexplored books open to him.

The Robert Louis Stevenson room in the Cleveland public library is a most ingenious and attractive way of carrying the adolescent reader thru the temptations of undesirable books at this susceptible age. The magazine articles which I have read and the librarian from Cleveland, to whom I have talked about that experiment, have stated that it is most successful. (See LIBRARIES 31:450-53)

If we can awaken young people to the joy of finding friendship, love and humor in good books, we have given them mighty ships to circle the earth.

The Cleveland public library has found this Stevenson room so successful that it is opening similar rooms for young people in its branch libraries. I understand that all of them are run in connection with, and under the supervision of, the schools department of the library. Close coöperation with the schools would be the logical method of reaching and attracting the most young people to the library. If a Stevenson room reaches most of the pupils dropping out of school, it will fulfil a noble mission by continuing their education thru books.

It would seem that the best way to have the late adolescent reading the best things is to cultivate the child's standards of pleasures and appreciations while he is an early adolescent, to give him such respect for beauty of diction and style combined with consistency of plot, that he will not be satisfied with mediocrity.

The intermediate and junior high-school library can reach the child at that plastic age when his tastes are forming. The school librarian can form these tastes with the assistance of all of his teachers. If we can help him to form good reading habits, we have made him a happier and more useful person. He is willing to go a-voyaging somewhere and if we can arouse his curiosity in the fascinating lands to explore thru books, people those lands for him with living, vibrating characters found in classics, we have given him his ship and his crew and have sent him on a glorious adventure.

Child Labor Day is to be observed for the twenty-first time the last weekend in January, 1928. Individuals or organizations desiring posters and leaflets for distribution, and material to use in preparing a program can secure them free of charge from the National Child Labor Committee, 215 4th Avenue, New York City.

### High School Librarians at Urbana, Ill.

Enthusiasm marked the sessions of the Illinois association of High-school librarians, meeting as the Library section of the High-school conference at the University of Illinois, Friday, November 18. The high lights of the morning session were the talks given by Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of *LIBRARIES*, Chicago, and A. F. Trams, head of the English departments of the Joliet Township high-school and junior college. One rarely finds on the same program two speakers with throats of such warmth and brilliance so beautifully expressed. The first part of Miss Ahern's talk was that of a lover of literature sharing her treasures with friends; the second phase was that of a lover of librarians sharing with them her ideals for the profession. One of her recommendations, of which librarians know and administrators should be brought to realize the value, is, that in every school library there should be at least one well-equipped librarian free from routine and technical duties in order that she may work with the students.

Mr Trams followed with a paper entitled variously, *Marginalia* and *Books and Bookmen*, but whatever the title, its anecdotes of men and books, its original bits of verse, its humor and pathos and drama held its hearers charmed, and sent them forth refreshed.

Mildred Warren of Mount Vernon gave a full report on the question including librarians under the Teachers' Pensions act. Legal opinion is that there is now no grounds for so including them. The sense of the meeting was that the investigation should be continued.

After a delightful luncheon at which 50 librarians participated, the annual business meeting was held. Lutie E. Beggs of La Salle was elected to succeed Mary M. Spangler of Joliet as president; May E. Jordan of St. Charles continues as secretary-treasurer; Miss Van Eman of Evanston and Mrs W. H. Tague of Marion are the new members of the executive commit-

tee, Mrs Tague to act as vice-president. Miss Spangler was designated to fill an unexpired term.

The librarians enjoyed the remainder of the afternoon in a heart-to-heart discussion of their own problems. Ruth Sankee of Decatur conducted the round-table on the topics: Relation of public to school libraries; Old magazines—what shall we do with them?, and Keeping the teacher in touch with the library. These topics were ably presented by Miss Cochrane of Springfield, Miss Van Eman of Evanston, and Miss Ponder of Maywood, and thoroly discussed by the audience.

The association made a substantial gain in membership at this year's meeting. M. M. S.

#### List of Children's Books<sup>1</sup>

Jessie G. Van Cleve, A. L. A. Specialist  
Books about children's reading  
Auslander & Hill. The winged horse. Doubleday, \$3.50.  
Becker. Adventures in reading. Stokes, \$2.  
Huber, Brunner & Curry. Children's interests in poetry. Rand McNally.

#### Books for children's reading

Bacon. The lion hearted kitten. Macmillan, \$2.  
Brooks. To and again. Knopf, \$2.  
Clark, T. C., & Gillespie, E. A. A child's thoughts of God. Minton, \$1.50.  
Coatsworth. The cat and the captain. Macmillan, \$1.  
Crownfield. Alison Blair. Dutton, \$2.  
Farjeon. Italian peep-show. Stokes, \$2.50.  
Field. A little book of days. Doubleday, 75c.  
Happy hour books. The ugly duckling. Macmillan, 50c.  
Hutchinson. Fireside stories. Minton, \$2.50.  
Meigs. The trade wind. Little, \$2.  
Miller. Children of the mountain eagle. Doubleday, \$2.  
Milne. Now we are six. Dutton, \$2.  
Moon, Carl. The flaming arrow. Stokes, \$2.50.  
Moon, Grace. Nadita. Doubleday, \$2.  
Morley. I know a secret. Doubleday.  
Mukerji. Gay-neck. Dutton, \$2.  
Nicholay. The boy's life of Alexander Hamilton. Century, \$2.  
Nicholson. Clever Bill. Doubleday, \$1.  
Orton. Prancing Pat. Stokes, \$1.25.  
Phillips. The popover family. Houghton, \$1.50.  
Snedeker. Downright Dencey. Doubleday, \$2.  
Trumbull. Shirley takes a chance. Rand McNally, \$1.25.  
Turner. Magpie lane. Harcourt, \$1.60.

<sup>1</sup> Distributed in children's section, I. L. A.

#### A Worth While Booklet

An illuminating and inspiring address is used to form a little booklet issued by the University of Washington. In this, W. E. Henry, librarian of the University, gives his conclusions, after 40 years of service in educational institutions, relative to "Five objectives of a university library." This is another of Mr Henry's always exceptionally good presentations that contain inspiring sentiments for those who earnestly strive to attain. The five objectives he considers are:

- 1) The objective of content
- 2) The objective of assembling and organizing
- 3) The objective of distribution for service
- 4) The objective of staff
- 5) The objective of housing for preservation and service

Before considering these, Mr Henry says:

He who can accomplish all he would is the lowest type of man. Confession of regret after sincere effort is evidence of infinite aspiration hampered by finite power. It compliments our pride and confesses our limitations.

He maintains that:

The university library must develop a group of specialized, scholarly, reference librarians, all of whom shall be familiar with bibliographic methods and each shall be a master bibliographer in some special field which is strongly represented in the faculty and in the book collection. There is quite as much reason for having a reference librarian in each of the well defined fields of scholarship and investigation as there is for having a group of professors in that field attached to the faculty. The professors will need much bibliographic help if they are alive and economic, and the students in that line will need bibliographic assistance which the professor cannot adequately and economically give, if he serves well in his own province.

A library building, like all other buildings, should be planned from the inside out; that is, its form must fit its purpose, else it fails . . . It must be planned as a library not merely as a great piece of architecture. If it can be both, so much the better; if not, it should be a library building and every element of its form must grow out of its intended use.

The address is equally helpful and heartening to all libraries giving service to a large number of people.

### What Is Education?

In 1858 Herbert Spencer writing in the *Westminster Review* on "What knowledge is of most worth," advocated the teaching of science as the essential subject that would fit for the duties of home, business, civic and ethical relationships. Then arose the great question, Is education for making a living or a life? The man on the street, not understanding the contest, unhesitatingly answers "Education should fit us to build a life and earn a living," and expects the doctors to quit fighting and build a system that will do the work effectively.

Let it be admitted that education must be adjusted to the pupil. We are all long or short on the capacity to master some studies. However, this is not a sufficient reason to keep a boy out of the high school or the university. One boy acquires by observation, another by reading books. Therefore, let your idols go. Study the boy. Idols of system, standards, and theories must be banished that the youth of the republic may be fitted to achieve a life and a living. The examination idol will some day be carried out of the schools and each child be left free to go on his way with a love for the house of knowledge. The test is not a test but a nightmare. Give any test paper to 100 teachers and they will differ from 20 to 40 points in marking. The idol of religious discrimination for the teacher and the subject taught must be sent to the storeroom of antiques. Freedom of the teacher as to belief and freedom for scientific inquiry are essentials of progressive systems of education.

Knowledge should help us to see what is in the world, to think about what is in the world, to live with people and things in the world, and to reveal whatever ideas and ideals we may have to the world. Study those who have found a place in the minds and hearts of men and you find their great achievement was a revelation, something they gave out.

Education should destroy the idol of standardized thinking, a disaster we

now face. In our age big forces threaten the extinction of individuality. Education should free men from the bondage of the machine. Perhaps the only way to do this is to add a new course to the already overcrowded curriculum, Education for Leisure. At least the machine is giving us leisure but it leaves us without spirit or power to use it.—*Selected.*

### Two Hundred Books for an American Home

There is an error in the minds of some in regard to the list of books prepared by Miss Harriet C. Long of Wisconsin and given the prize by *Scribner's Magazine* last May. The list was prepared not as a list of "the 200 best books" but as a select list of 200 books for an American home and was declared the best list submitted for the purpose named.

The object of the contest was to encourage interest among American readers in the creative work of American writers, and the books were restricted to those written, translated or compiled by Americans. The contest was sponsored by the General Federation of Women's clubs.

The following foreword was appended to the list by Miss Long.

It was too alluring to miss—this chance to select 200 books for an American home—without regard to cost—remembering only that authors or editors must be American, and that the printed book must bear the imprint of an American publisher!

And so the compiler set blithely forth upon an enterprise which was to lead her into most unexpected by-paths, and ultimately involve even genealogical research to determine the right of certain well-known residents of America to appear in a list of *American* authors. For inquiry brought the reply that "naturalized citizens may be included," a condition which seemed to restrict the list very definitely to the American born or to those who were actually voting citizens in our republic.

Some awful moments followed! It meant the exclusion of our very delightful Dr Doolittle, because his author had neglected to forswear his allegiance to the British crown! And the compiler was amazed to find that the intrepid Stefansson had not yet taken the step which would make him one of our very own citizens.



Then there was Richard Green Moulton, whose ripe scholarship adorned the University of Chicago for many years but whose record as printed in *Who's Who in America* discloses an English birth, and an English residence at the present time! So these book shelves, on either side of the fireplace, may not include his *Modern Reader's Bible*, but the compiler of this list is secretly hoping that the mistress of this charming country home will have a copy on a bedside table!

Most diverting of all was the search into the background of Charles Mills Gayley, whose *Classic Myths* is so invaluable a book for every lover of literature and art. Altho he has lived almost 50 years in America, this kindly gentleman happened to be born in Shanghai! The note in *Who's Who in America* mentioned him as one time governor of the California Society of Mayflower Descendants. That seemed a clue, so his lineage was examined only to learn that his membership in that patriotic society came thru his mother! There still remained the question of his father's citizenship! Further search revealed that his father was born in Ireland, came to this country as a young man, and was sent by an American mission board to China where he died! Only one thing remained, and that was a direct inquiry of Dr Gayley himself. So a letter was dispatched by air mail to the author's home in Berkeley and the answer eagerly awaited! His father was naturalized in 1856.

One result of this research has been a letter to the editors of the American *Who's Who* suggesting for future issues of that indispensable tool the inclusion of information relative to the citizenship of our foreign born notables.

Because so frequently the birth places of the authors were a surprise to the compiler, and therefore lent an added interest to the making of this list, the place of birth has been given after the author's name, with information indicating acquired citizenship. When not otherwise available, the information as to citizenship was gleaned from either the author himself or from his publisher.

Of course the encyclopedia, dictionary and atlas are purchases quite necessary to every American home, but these queer sized unwieldy volumes are not to fit on those vacant shelves on either side of the hospitable fireplace. Presumably, for the purpose of this list, they are to be kept on their own special cases in this living room! And the cook book is to be kept on the kitchen shelf, ready for the frequent consultations of mistress and cook.

Some of the titles have been chosen that they may be shared alike by old and young. Such books have been starred.

The children's corner itself, tho comparatively small, contains much that is best for

our younger readers. These the children will read over and over, until they become a veritable part of their lives.

The compiler felt very happy indeed that Horace Elisha Scudder was so thoroly American, for his one volume *The Children's Book*, contains riches often scattered in a dozen ordinary volumes—and from it the children can absorb the age old fables, the well loved fairy tales, the swinging ballads which are the heritage of every child.

In the compilation of this list, great care has been exercised in the choice of edition. For instance, a pocket edition of *Walden* was chosen so that it might be read in the woods, and the editions of such delightful classics as *Franklin's Autobiography* and *Moby Dick* were chosen for their attractiveness.

This collection is to be one which will tempt the whole family and their friends. Books of a textbook nature were sedulously avoided. The children will have their school histories, grammars, etc. This home library must be a means of escape, not in any way related to a school task.

This list contains only books which the compiler has known and used. As presented, it contains 200 books, which she would very much like to own if she were mistress of this charming country home. But she would want, in addition, access to a public library, to supplement the family's needs.

A borrowed book is like a guest in the house; it must be treated with punctiliousness, with a certain considerate formality. You must see that it sustains no damage; it must not suffer while under your roof. You cannot leave it carelessly, you cannot mark it, you cannot turn down the pages, you cannot use it familiarly. And then, some day, altho this is seldom done, you really ought to return it.

But your own books belong to you; you treat them with that affectionate intimacy that annihilates formality. Books are for use, not for show; you should own no books that you are afraid to mark up, or afraid to place on the table, wide open and face down. A good reason for marking favorite passages in books is that this practice enables you to remember more easily the significant sayings, to refer to them quickly, and then in later years it is like visiting a forest where you once blazed a trail.

—William Lyon Phelps.

## News from the Field

## East

Marion K. Allen, Wellesley '25, for two years in the Free library at Newton, Mass., was married to Ramon Gustin, October 1.

Frances Hubbert has resigned her position as librarian of the Public library, Arlington, Mass., to become librarian of the Redwood library, Newport, R. I.

Joseph L. Wiley resigned as technical librarian of Public library, Youngstown, Ohio, in November, to become librarian of the firm A. D. Little & Co., Cambridge, Mass.

Harriet H. Stanley, N. Y. S. '95, resigned her position as assistant-librarian at Wells College to become head cataloger at the Forbes library, Northampton, Mass.

Carita G. Rutherford, in charge of the House-to-House delivery of the Free library at Newton, has gone to the public library at Springfield, Mass., as reference assistant.

The 1926 report of the City library, Manchester, N. H., records an increase in circulation from 72,298v. in 1901 to 264,236v. in 1926. The issuance of periodicals is seven per cent of the total circulation. Exhibits in the Open Shelf room included one depicting the development of the library in the past 50 years.

Josephine W. MacIntosh, formerly with the Public library, Newburyport, Mass., has been added to the staff. Madeleine V. Davis has resigned to accept a position with the Public library, Bridgeport, Conn.

## Central Atlantic

Mary E. Hall, Pratt '24, was married, November 5, to Hermon Bemis Noyes.

Mildred H. Lawson, N. Y. S. '20, librarian of the High-school library, New Rochelle, N. Y., 1920, died October 23.

Louise G. Hinsdale, Pratt '98, is doing special work in the library of the Institute of International Education in New York City.

Evelyn L. Matthews, Pratt '17, has recently been appointed consulting librarian for the Extension division of the State library at Harrisburg, Pa.

Karl Brown, N. Y. S. '25, formerly of the New York public library, has joined the staff of the Reynolds library, Rochester, N. Y., and not the University of Rochester as previously reported.

Mrs C. E. Nash-Goff, '25 Atlanta, formerly of the Emory University library staff, is now with the Public library of the District of Columbia, Washington.

Margaret J. Ward, N. Y. P. L. '26, who went to the Tremont Branch of the New York public library for temporary service last summer, is continuing as a regular member of the staff.

The report of the Free library, Wilmington, Delaware, for the year ending June 30, 1927, shows: Total circulation 575,856 v.; 133,275 v. on the shelves; maintenance cost, \$72,697, of which \$44,822 was spent for salaries and \$16,470 for books, periodicals and binding.

Thru a gift of a friend, the library has undertaken library work in rural New Castle county. Miss Della F. Northey has charge of the work.

William F. Seward, after 24 years of service as librarian of the Public library, Binghamton, N. Y., has retired. Under Mr Seward's administration, the Binghamton public library took its place in the front rank of library activities in New York state. In reviewing the activities of the library on his retirement, Mr Seward recommended various extensions of the library's work. Among the recommendations are the remodeling of the present building to double its present capacity, and arrangement for placing school libraries in the school buildings.

Mr Seward has earned the well deserved reputation of being a beloved librarian with real library spirit toward his staff and toward the community. Some of the methods of bringing in readers, which have passed into cur-

rent use, originated with the Binghamton library, a specially noted one being that of having evenings in the library for the various interests of the town. He has served also the library clubs and associations of New York in a highly creditable manner.

Mr Seward is retiring under the state pension law and will spend the coming winter with his daughter at Cocanut Grove, Fla.

Adeline Perkins, N. Y. P. L. '25, resigned her position with the Carnegie free library, Alliance, Ohio, and is now head of the schools and traveling libraries department of the Buffalo public library.

#### Central

Dr N. D. C. Hodges, librarian of Public library, Cincinnati, Ohio, from 1900 to 1925, died in that city, November 25, after an illness of more than two years. He was for more than a quarter of a century one of the leaders in library development in America. (An extended notice of his career will be given later.)

William Teal, formerly superintendent of reference service of The John Crerar library, Chicago, and for several years librarian of the Public library, Cicero, Ill., has accepted a complimentary offer to return to The John Crerar library with advancement in position and salary.

#### South

Lulu Ruth Reed, N. Y. S. '19, has gone to the Southwestern Louisiana Institute as acting assistant-librarian.

Mary P. Conrad, N. Y. P. L. '26, resigned her position with the Chatham Square branch of the New York public library to become cataloger at Clemson College, S. C.

The report of the Public library, Martinsburg, W. Va., records a circulation of 54,167v.; borrowers, 2800; books on the shelves, 3863; receipts for the year, \$8671, and expenditures, \$8643.

Thru a second grant, \$35,000, the Carnegie Corporation of New York has made possible the continuance of the Louisiana demonstration for two years more. The demonstration, which

was primarily scheduled to cover a period of three years, was proving decidedly successful when the Mississippi flood occurred. This naturally has retarded the work of the commission and, in order to carry out the program as originally planned, it is necessary to continue the demonstration over a longer period.

Work in the branch demonstration was interrupted by the flood, but the main library was kept open and people came in boats to get books. The average circulation during this time was 60 books a day. A second summer course was given at the University. Only 10 students registered, but this was doubtless due to the flood conditions.

Nearly 40,000 books were circulated by the Commission library in 1926-27 and over 1000 requests for information were received.



Used by Libraries for 40 years for general paper pasting and backing of pamphlets. This paste has no disagreeable odor and is not inflammable. Keeps soft and free from mould.

Packed in gallon, quart and pint cans; also in bags and barrels.

**THE ARABOL MFG. CO.**  
NEW YORK: 110 E. 42nd St.  
CHICAGO: [Cicero,] Ill.

#### West

Mary Thomas, Columbia '27, has been appointed cataloger in the College of Medicine of the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

## Out-of-Print Books Back Number Magazines

When publishers report that items on order are not available, there is a very fair possibility of securing them within a reasonable time and always at moderate cost through the facilities offered by our **OUT OF PRINT SERVICE**.

There is no charge for listing your wants with us, nor is there any obligation to purchase items reported.

**NATIONAL BIBLIOPHILE SERVICE**  
347 Fifth Avenue New York

The report of the Morrill public library of Hiawatha, Kansas, reports thru its librarian, Rebecca D. Kiner, a prosperous year. The library serves not only Hiawatha but Brown county. It has an income of \$3834 which is a levy of .75 mills on the dollar. Expenditure is \$1.17 per capita. Books on the shelves, 19,820; registered borrowers, 1600; total circulation, 29,120. Collections of books are sent to four buildings of the city schools. The rural population has service from the library for \$1 a year for adults and 50 cents for school pupils.

#### Pacific Coast

Margery Bedinger, librarian of the State College library, N. M., has resigned her position to become head of the adult education department in the Seattle public library. She begins her new work in January.

A series of free lectures in the Spanish, French and German languages under the auspices of the foreign book department have been inaugurated in the Public library of Los Angeles. The lectures will be held in its lecture room on Friday evenings from November, 1927, to April, 1928.

The staff of the Public library, Seattle, has been increased by the addition in the several departments of the following persons: Mrs Mary Breaks, Kathleen Dunham, Pittsburgh '26, Hazel Henderson, Illinois '19, Cecelia Kintner, Pittsburgh '27, Mrs Edna Lucas, Los Angeles '21, Katharine Lund, Los Angeles '22 and W. R. U. '27, Ruth MacDonald, Washington '25, Thelma Martin, W. R. U. '24, Gertrude Mills, W. R. U. '27, and Roberta Meredith, Washington '17.

The thirty-ninth annual report of the Public library, Los Angeles, Calif., is a review of the development of the library, 1926-27, particularly of the building program of the new central building with nine branch libraries, fairly adequate book appropriation, and the improvements and changes made possible by the enlarged quarters of the various library activities. There was a 17 per cent gain in circulation bring-

ing the year's circulation to 6,449,189v.; registered borrowers, 255,006; books on the shelves, 746,033. There are 46 branches and 88 deposit stations in the system.

Each department shows a most unusual development of its work, also credited to the new buildings and equipment. The new lecture and exhibit room served about 1,200 visitors monthly. The library gave two series of lectures on books, and the Adult Education association offered courses on current events, science, and literature, and a number of talks in foreign languages. The chamber music festival given to the library patrons by Mrs Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge was a notable event.

The report calls attention to the many requests in outer communities of the city for library service, which, to be met, will require at least 20 new branches. The library is kept continually on high tension in an effort to "keep up with Los Angeles."

#### Canada

Mrs Marjorie Harrington Mowat, N. Y. S. '20, has become a reviser at the Library school of McGill University, Montreal.

The Riverdale branch, one of the largest in the Toronto Public Library system, is being further enlarged by the addition of a wing to house the Boys and Girls division. Plenty of space, abundance of light, a large fireplace, all are being provided for the youthful patrons.

**Wanted**—U. S. National Museum Bulletin, No. 103. Address Irene Ryan, Indiana University Library, Bloomington, Ind.

**Wanted**—Head of circulation department. Training and experience required. Salary \$1800. Public Library, Lynn, Mass.

**Wanted**—To do expert indexing of books and periodicals. Reasonable rates. Address Adelaide E. Ohlendorf, Harper Memorial Library, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.



